

**A FATHER'S AGONY**  
My Celine, victim of a monster  
**PAGE 3**



**BEST FOR BOOKS**

Julia Neuberger on the boys who escaped Hitler  
**PLUS: Douglas Hurd on Alec Douglas-Home, Eric Lomax, William Trevor, PAGES 40, 41**



**SIR CLIFF AS HEATHCLIFF**

Brontë rock opens to blue-rinse hysteria  
**PAGE 7**



**BEST FOR JOBS**

- ☐ IT Executive. 140K
- ☐ Consultant. 70K
- ☐ Buyer. 60K
- ☐ Director. 50K

APPOINTMENTS, 20 PAGES  
SECTION 3

## Dunblane parents to fight on

**160,000 handguns are to be destroyed**

By Philip Webster  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE parents of Dunblane last night pledged to continue their fight to have all handguns banned after the Government announced the most drastic firearm curbs yet in response to the massacre of 16 children and their teacher last March.

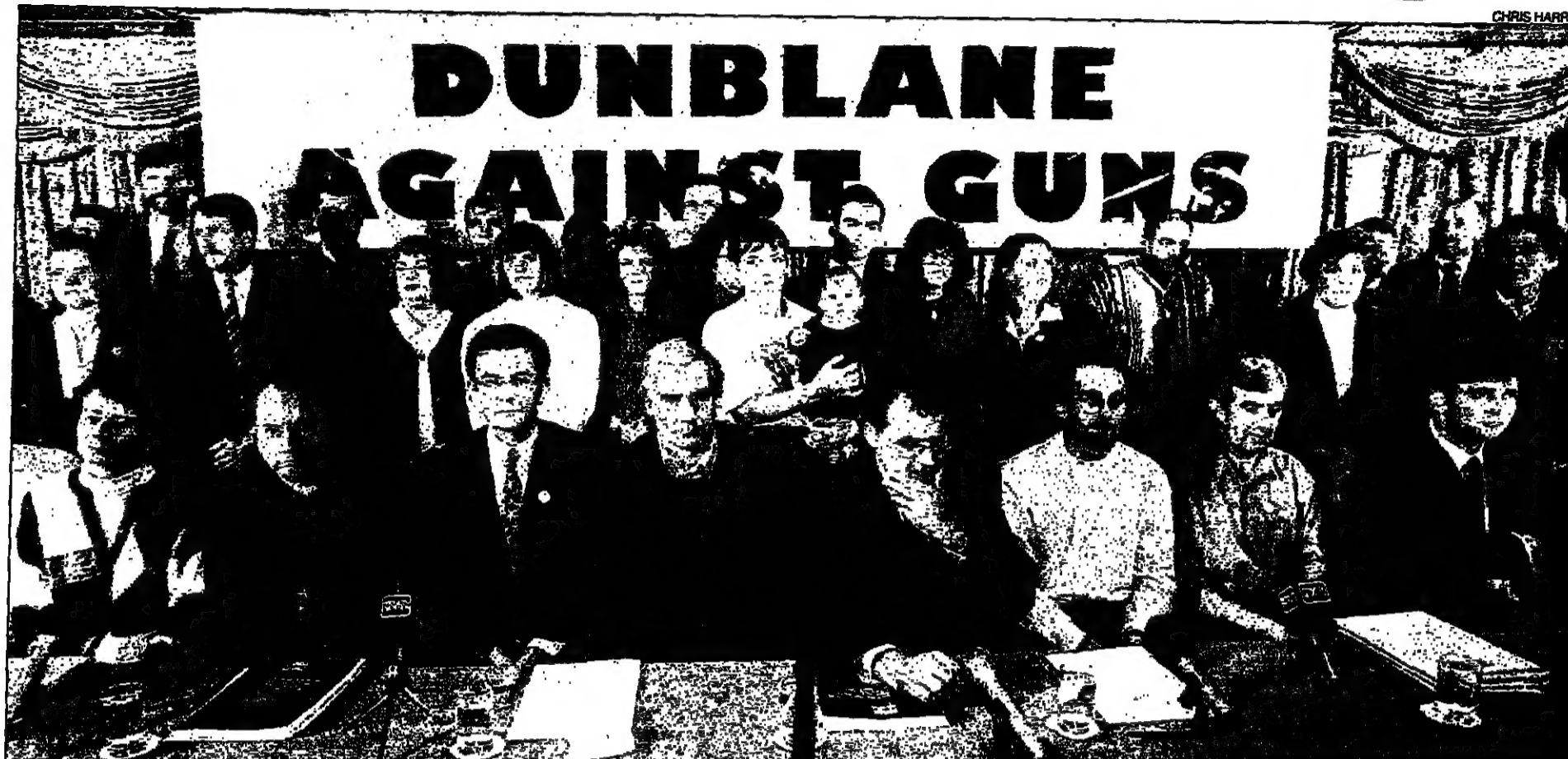
Some 160,000 of the 200,000 handguns held legally in Britain — including all automatic weapons — will have to be handed in and destroyed, but that did not satisfy the families, who insisted that there should be no compromise with public safety.

"They could have gone one step further and banned handguns completely," said Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie was among those killed by Thomas Hamilton.

Michael Howard, who said the Government's plans would give Britain some of the toughest gun control laws in the world, was also criticised by some Tory MPs who believed that he had gone too far, and by the gun industry, which faces ruin. More than 3,000 jobs could be put at risk, a quarter of the 2,100 gun dealers in the country could close and few of the 2,500 clubs are likely to survive.

Under the Government's proposals, owners who surrender their guns will receive an average of £150 compensation per weapon, at a cost to the Government of about £24 million. The 40,000 smaller guns that will remain legal will have to be kept at gun clubs which will have to be turned into fortresses to remain in operation.

The proposals go beyond the measures recommended by Lord Cullen in his 174-page report on the massacre, which prompted the resignation yesterday of the senior policeman who renewed Thomas Hamilton's gun licence. Douglas McMurdo, the Assistant Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, who as Deputy Chief Constable of Central Scotland was one of the first



Families of children murdered in Dunblane announce that they will fight on for a ban on all handguns. Below: Gwen Mayor and pupils of primary one, 16 of whom died

on the scene on March 13, was singled out for criticism in the report, which focused on the force's handling of firearms certificates and the "unacceptable" mistakes it made on the day of the shootings when some families had to wait for five hours to learn that their children had been killed.

Mr McMurdo said yesterday that he was resigning with great sadness. The tragedy had been at the forefront of his mind for seven months, but he still firmly believed that the decisions he had taken were the only ones available to him.

Mr McMurdo's resignation was announced in the Commons by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, in a statement in which he described Hamilton's attack on the school as "an act of calculated wickedness".

MPs were also told that the Government intended immediately to implement Lord Cullen's recommendations on tighter security for schools and a new national network to monitor those entrusted with the care and supervision of young people in clubs.

Under the new gun restrictions, all clubs will need a licence from the Home or Scottish Secretary, and will have to meet stringent security standards. These will cover the reinforcement of walls to protect weapons, the sales in which guns will be kept, the strength of perimeter fences, the provision of burglar alarms linked to police stations, the installation of metal detectors to prevent guns being illicitly removed, and a regime of regular and stringent inspection to ensure club security is adequate.

Other measures include a ban, except for deer shooting, on the use of expanding or dum-dum ammunition; severe new restrictions on mail-order purchases; a new system requiring firearms applicants to provide two references; and a new power to allow a chief officer to revoke a firearms certificate if he feels the gun owner does not have a good reason for possessing it.

In addition, there will be a new requirement for all handgun shooters to obtain a firearms certificate, ending the



present system under which a person without a certificate can shoot at an approved club. Gun clubs will also be required to inform the police when a certificate holder ceases to be a member or has not attended a meeting for a year. There will also be a new offence of failing to notify the police whenever a firearm or shotgun was sold, transferred, deactivated or destroyed and a ban on the sale of guns through the post.

Disarmed gun enthusiasts said last night the Govern-

ment plans would handicap British competitors in a sport where Britain had long succeeded. They claimed the ban would do nothing to prevent another Dunblane and would lead to the closure of hundreds of businesses and the loss of thousands of jobs. They were further angered by the initial compensation package which does not yet include any planned payment to dealers, importers, wholesalers or clubs who have stocks or cannot meet the new safety requirements.

The British Shooting Sports Council accused Parliament of caving in to "popular prejudices" and claimed shooters should have the same rights as any other sportsmen or minority.

The people of Dunblane, however, insisted that the new rules did not go far enough and issued a statement saying: "The Home Office submission to Lord Cullen contained the following sentence: 'There are no licensing arrangements which could give an absolute guarantee that no legitimate gun owner will ever misuse his gun.' We agree with this and therefore the choice is clear: ban guns completely or take the chance that someone will misuse his gun."

As expected, Labour announced that it would vote for a total ban when the legislation comes before the Commons next month. At least four Conservatives have said that they will join them and up to eight more may also defy the Government, which is unlikely to grant a free vote on the issue. The Liberal Democrats are generally supportive of the

Government's stance, but have not declared their hand, and the vote is certain to be tight.

In the Commons yesterday, the former Cabinet minister David Mellor was cheered by Labour and heckled by his own side when he said "the game is up for handguns now".

Labour meanwhile called for the closure of the House of Commons shooting club — one of the few in the country that can already meet the strict security rules outlined by the Government yesterday.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Cullen report and reaction, pages 4 and 5  
Magnus Linklater, page 22  
Leading article  
and Letters, page 23

**Where life can never return to normal**

By Magnus Linklater

WAITING for Cullen has been the watchword in Dunblane for so long that there was a sense almost of disbelief yesterday when the report was finally published. "Is that really it?" said a shopper, turning to hear the news. "Is that the end of it?"

The answer, sadly, is no. For some there was a weary acknowledgement that it would take more than Lord Cullen's findings to draw a line under the nightmare that Dunblane has been living with since March. For others, still coping with their grief, the report was simply another milestone along a troubled road with no clear end in sight.

But for the parents of murdered children, the bereaved families and the wounded teachers who have formed the potent group Dunblane Against Guns, it marked the beginning of a new and determined campaign. Initially it will be aimed at securing the outright ban of all handguns — including the .22 weapons that the Government is still prepared to sanction — but it might culminate in something even more ambitious.

There was talk yesterday about a total ban on all privately owned guns in Britain. "It needs more thought and it has practical problems," one parent said, "but ultimately we must ensure the safety of the public from all guns."

Ann Pearson, the articulate spokeswoman of the Snowdrop Campaign, said she was concentrating only on persuading the Government to go one step further and ban all handguns. "This is a compromise," she said. "Continued on page 2, col 4"

## Libel case order to pulp Venables book

By Jason Nisse

A HIGH Court judge will order today that all unsold copies of Terry Venables' autobiography be pulped as part of a settlement of the libel action against the former England football manager by Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur.

Mr Venables and his publishers, Michael Joseph, are paying £100,001 in damages

as well as a large part of the costs of the case, which has lasted for nearly two years.

Mr Sugar will also read a statement in court rejecting 15 accusations against him in the book, *Venables*, including claims that he altered board minutes and misused shareholders' funds.

The autobiography, published while Mr Venables was in charge of the England team, was serialised in a Sunday newspaper. Tony Berry, another Spurs director, sued the paper and that case has been settled out of court.

The book concentrated on the time when Mr Venables and Mr Sugar ran Spurs and covered issues such as their deal to take control of the club when it was in trouble in 1991; the sale of Paul Gascoigne to the Italian club Lazio; and Mr Sugar's ousting of Mr Venables in 1993.

Mr Venables still has one case outstanding against Spurs, an unfair dismissal claim being brought by Edennote, a company Mr Venables used for personal business dealings, but which has collapsed.



"How do I know you're not having a hotel trip with a Czech model?"

**Ousted chief is awarded £3m**

A court has awarded John Clark, who was ousted as chief executive of the business services group BET, more than £3 million in compensation. Mr Clark, 55, had been willing to settle for a third of the sum. The ruling is likely to influence future cases involving executive pay. Page 17

**Euro loophole**

The European Commission approved a scheme for stiff penalties against states which run high budget deficits inside monetary union but left open a loophole. Page 13

## Gaddafi hires British firm to spruce up his image

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

A BRITISH political lobbying company has been hired by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to improve Libya's image and end its international isolation.

The disclosure of the award of the contract to GJM International, only weeks after the latest cash-for-questions affair, will cause further controversy about the activities of lobbyists. The company is considering inviting ministers to visit Libya in an effort to boost trade links.

Libya, the subject of wide-ranging United Nations trade sanctions since the Lockerbie bomb in 1988, approached several British lobbyists. GJM International, part of the London-based GJM Government Relations, won the contract, which is reputed to be worth a six-figure sum.

Andrew Gifford, the chief executive and a former adviser to Sir David Steel, clinched the deal after flying to Tripoli this year to meet senior members of the Libyan Government. He denied he had met Colonel Gaddafi. Wilf Weeks, chairman of GJM, who is a former political adviser to Sir Edward

Heath, has also been to North Africa. Tony Hunt, another senior director, is a former employee of Conservative Central Office.

Mr Gifford, who is said to be paid £250,000 a year, is chairman and founder member of the newly formed Association of Political Consultants which was established in an attempt to improve the image of lobbyists.

Mr Weeks said last night: "We have nothing to hide. We are not stupid. We thought carefully before we took the contract. We know that the Libyans are not angels."

Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora was killed in the Lockerbie bombing, was scathing. He said: "This [Libyan] approach is not honourable. It is based on buying your way out of it, which is what Colonel Gaddafi can do with his money."

The UN sanctions were imposed after Libya refused to surrender two men suspected of carrying out the Lockerbie bombing, which killed 270 people. Libya has refused permission for the two men to stand trial in Britain.

The UN sanctions include a ban on the supply of arms, aviation-related equipment and a range of oil industry equipment, and a freeze on Libyan foreign assets. Sir Nicholas Bonsor, a Foreign Office minister, repeated in a Commons debate this year that the sanctions had to stay because of Colonel Gaddafi's "support for terrorism and his aggression against the West".

GJM is paid by the Libyan Government to monitor press and diplomatic comment in Britain and to suggest ways of improving the country's standing with Government and business.

Mr Weeks, who said that he suspected people "might make mischief" out of the contract, said: "It is for six months. It will be reviewed. I had hoped it would be renewed. It probably won't be now."

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TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORDS ..... 26, 52

LETTERS ..... 23  
OBITUARIES ..... 25  
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 22

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 48  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

BOOKS ..... 40, 41  
BODY & MIND ..... 20  
LAW REPORT ..... 36







'We survive more than we live,' says father as lorry driver is jailed for life

# Pitiless murderer haunts thoughts of French family

By a Staff Reporter

THE father of Celine Figard spoke last night of the daughter he had lost to an "imbecile" killer. After Stuart Morgan, 37, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering the 19-year-old French student, Bernard Figard said he could not understand how the lorry driver could live with his crime.

"I can't believe he actually pleaded not guilty, but inside of him he knows what he did. It didn't seem to move him or affect him at all when he heard the graphic descriptions of Celine's ordeal."

"I wonder if he has any nightmares about what he did to my daughter. How does he feel when he remembers the desperate shout of his powerless victim? How does he feel when he remembers his own hands covered with my beautiful daughter's blood?"

M Figard, who attended Worcester Crown Court every day with his wife, Martine, said through an interpreter: "This man will never pay enough for what he did. I hope he spends the rest of his days rotting in jail."

Throughout the court case he looked so detached from reality as if he was a total stranger who didn't really belong there. I just felt sickened by his behaviour.

"When I first laid eyes on him in May he just had a blank look on his face and he

didn't seem to feel anything or to show any remorse. He was just cold."

"I never really thought that Morgan could walk away from this, but my real fear throughout the case was that he may have pleaded insanity or diminished responsibility. That would have been all too easy for him."

"It is beyond my comprehension how a man who has committed such a horrible crime in a moment of madness could have been stupid enough not to get rid of the evidence. Far from that, this monstrous idiot kept my daughter's dead body in the back of his truck with him. What kind of imbecile creature is he?"

"Being there was like sharing our daughter's Calvary. The police did tell us everything, but it was still very hard to see Celine's belongings and to listen to the details of how she died. I felt like I was going through Celine's ordeal all over again myself."

He added that the family home in France was filled with memories. "Celine is everywhere and nowhere at the same time. Everything we do and everywhere we go we think of our daughter. The drawings she did when she was a little girl, the gifts she bought us when she was a child and teenager and all the little things that before we

didn't really notice, now have great significance."

"When I walk past her bedroom I remember the sound of her voice as she sat doing her homework or opening the door to talk to us."

I remember the noise of her feet when she was running in the house and sometimes I still think I can hear my little girl running around the house but then I realise it's all a nightmare and I'm dragged back to reality with a bang."

"In our living room we have put a lot of framed pictures of Celine on the wall; this is to remind us that Celine won't be physically with us again. She was such a lively girl with a lot of life to live."

"We miss her so much. Everybody misses her. People in the village still feel shock and outrage, so much so that some would have been ready to take a gun to Morgan if he had been freed."

"For a neighbour's daughter I know I would have felt the same things but it is my Celine who died and I don't feel I want revenge. Nothing will bring her back and I am also against capital punishment because I think it is too easy."

M Figard said his family had received support, but also hate mail. "But despite all this support and friendship offered from strangers we still get hate mail. These people don't even have the courage to sign their letters but we have had letters from all over France and even from Great Britain."

M Figard said he still feels anger that a second truck driver, Roger Bouvier, let his daughter go with Morgan despite having reservations.

"Bouvier told the police, after Celine's disappearance, that Morgan had a strange look in his eye that he couldn't forget, that he didn't trust him. Bouvier was very upset, but if he didn't trust this man why the hell didn't he do anything to stop her going with him?"

"A lot of people have told me that I am very strong but it is only an appearance. Our lives will never be the same and we survive more than we live. We have a duty to cope and we do this for Celine and for our three other children. We try to



Bernard Figard, who said he could not understand how his daughter Celine's killer could live with his crime



Stuart Morgan denied murdering French student Celine Figard, whom he picked up in his lorry



help each other and we all have different ways of reacting to our feelings. I have to go and work in my fields because Celine very rarely came out to work with me in the fields and that is the only real place where I can be alone with my thoughts."

"My wife took over Celine's newspaper delivery job in our village just as Celine used to. I think this way Martine feels that she is keeping Celine's memory alive." Mme Figard

reacted so badly after Celine's disappearance that her husband had to hide from her that Celine had been raped."

M Figard said he had great sympathy for the parents of the murdered schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson, who was raped in a French youth hostel last summer.

"I often think about Caroline Dickinson's parents. They lost their daughter in the same circumstances as us but Caroline's murderer has not been

found. It must be an overwhelming weight to carry knowing that the bastard who murdered their daughter is still walking the streets and is free to do the same to another father's daughter."

He defended his daughter against Morgan's allegations that Celine consented to sex, adding: "I was very, very shocked, even though I knew in advance the defence would allege such things, that they said that my daughter had

flirted with Morgan and the accusation that my daughter had taken drugs."

"Celine was not just like that. It was not in her nature. Morgan's madness at times honestly made me laugh. It was so ridiculous."

The Figards now want to live as normally as possible. M Figard said: "We cannot afford to think in terms of life with Celine or life without Celine. Our daughter has gone and our lives just go on."

## £4,000 reward offered for train robbers

By Michael Horsnell

A REWARD of £4,000 was offered yesterday for the capture of two masked robbers, armed with a gun and a machete, who terrified passengers on a London commuter train and stripped them of money, credit cards and valuables.

Police are worried that the hold-up on a moving train, the first in Britain, could start a new crime fashion. British Transport Police are stepping up security and will study video footage taken at London stations. The attack, in which at least 25 people were robbed in the space of six minutes, occurred between London Bridge and Deptford, south London, on the line to Dartford.

Detective Chief Superintendent Peter Whent, head of British Transport Police operations, said: "This is a very serious, unique attack. It was horrendous and people were obviously extremely frightened." The attack took place on Tuesday on the 8.12pm train from Charing Cross. It had called at Waterloo East and London Bridge when the robbery took place. When the train arrived at Deptford at 8.25pm the two men fled.

They went into a lavatory on the train at an early stage of the short journey. The man with the machete, who had been wearing a rolled-up woollen hat, emerged with it unrolled as a balaclava. His accomplice had pulled a scarf over his face. Mr Whent said: "One of the suspects asked the other if he was ready. Then they went to different ends of one carriage and announced it was a robbery. They said they wanted everybody's money." They threatened passengers but no one was hurt.

He said the robbery differed from "steaming" on trains, where gangs of up to 20 jostled and intimidated passengers. Officers took statements from the victims and appealed for witnesses. Connex, the train operator, announced a £2,000 reward for information leading to arrests and conviction. Victims of Crime offered a further £2,000.

George Candlin, 34, a television production manager, said: "They rushed down the train telling people to put their wallets into the bags. They were waving the gun and the knife, which had a pretty nasty-looking blade. No one flipped, there was plenty of British calm. The one with the gun came to me. I didn't think it was for real but I wasn't about to find out, so I put my wallet in the bag."

Police hope to issue photo-fit pictures of the two attackers, who were in their twenties. The man carrying the 12-inch machete was described as black, of athletic build and dressed in a maroon sweatshirt, blue jogging trousers and white trainers. The man with the gun was of mixed-race or Mediterranean appearance, slightly built and with bad acne. He wore an off-white or cream jacket with vertical brown and red stripes, and a leather baseball cap.

## Killer to be questioned about deaths of other women

By Richard Duce and Ian Murray

STUART MORGAN is to be questioned about the killings of at least two other women. Like Mlle Figard, they were strangled and their naked bodies dumped close to motorway junctions.

Jailing Morgan for life at Worcester Crown Court, Mr Justice Latham told him: "You have been convicted on the clearest possible evidence. What you did to Celine has caused revulsion in the minds of all right-thinking people. There is only one sentence I can impose for this crime and that is life imprisonment. I consider you a dangerous

man and will so report to the Home Secretary."

Morgan had raped Mlle Figard in the cab of his lorry before beating her over the head and strangling her on December 19 last year. He drove around the country for the next ten days with her body concealed in the lower bunk of the white cab. Eventually he left her body close to a lay-by near Worcester just off the M5.

The two unsolved killings about which Morgan is expected to be interviewed are those of Tracey Turner, 33, and Samo Pauli, 20. Both were prostitutes whose bodies were found near the M1 in Leicestershire. Miss Turner vanished in

March 1994 and Miss Pauli at the end of December 1993. Although Morgan is to be questioned about other murders police were last night ruling out speculation that he was the so-called Midlands Ripper.

Even before he turned to murder, Morgan led a double life, with a wife and a mistress at opposite ends of the country. Although he was described by police as unremarkable, ordinary and plausible, psychologists said that he had the classic hallmarks of a criminal psychopath and seemed incapable of any lasting relationship with women unless he was cheating on them.

During much of his time in Poole,

Dorset, with Glynis Parker, who was to become his second wife, Morgan was also living with Alyson Philbrook in Wigan, Greater Manchester. Both Miss Parker and Miss Philbrook believed that they alone shared their lives with the former heating engineer turned long-distance driver.

Morgan's job as a freelance driver for a Southampton firm took him all over the country as well as on foreign trips. He was to claim in court that he had often had sex with women hitchhikers. "I am of the character I always flirt with women," he told the jury.

Morgan started his affair with Miss Parker while still married to

his first wife, Catherine Smith, the mother of their twin sons, Jamie and Martin. Only months after marrying and moving to Dorset he had met Miss Parker and embarked on a lengthy affair that eventually ended in marriage in 1994.

But even before he wed his second wife he was being unfaithful with Miss Philbrook, 32, after he met her through work at Bournemouth council. When she eventually moved north the affair continued.

Miss Philbrook, who six months ago married Andrew Norris, with whom she has a two-month-old boy, said: "I always took him at his word and his word was that I was the only woman in his life and that he loved

me dearly — I had no reason to disbelieve him. He was obviously driving back and forth from his place to see me but I knew nothing about it at the time. I didn't know he was picking up hitchhikers or anything, this has all come as a great shock."

Dr Susan Edwards, of Buckingham University, who has written on sex crimes, said it was no surprise to discover that Morgan was thought to be unremarkable. "Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was unremarkable when police stopped him in a routine investigation. Obviously someone like this with his kind of job is able to conceal his tracks and move around freely," she said.

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# Ban is 'draconian alternative' to guns restriction

THE almost total ban on handguns announced by the Government yesterday goes much further than the key recommendation in Lord Cullen's lengthy report on the Dunblane shootings. He said a ban on multi-shot handguns would be a "draconian alternative" to his recommendation for the disabling of self-loading pistols and revolvers of all calibres.

Lord Cullen said the availability of self-loading pistols and revolvers held by individuals for target shooting should be restricted. He suggested they could be disabled while not in use by the removal of the slide assembly, which would be kept securely at a gun club, or the fitting of a blocked barrel by a club official.

Lord Cullen said that over the past 20 years there had been a considerable expansion in the use of larger calibre and high capacity handgun models. These are not target guns in the true and original sense. "There had also been a growth in combat shooting. It has led some shooters to don the trappings of combat, such as holsters and camouflage clothing. It has caused others to feel uneasy about what appears to be the use of guns as symbols of personal power."

The multi-shot handgun had "the capacity to kill or injure a great number of people within a short space of time", he said. "I have no doubt that if Thomas Hamilton had chosen to do so he could have killed every person in the gym."

Lord Cullen's recommendations included:

- Certification system: police inquiry into an applicant's background must be supplied in advance with any information about a change of circumstances and any reason for exercising particular caution. Anyone applying for a firearms certificate will be assessed against a check list of criteria for suitability.
- More training for officers conducting inquiries. Extension of the powers of search where there is reasonable ground that there is a risk to

## THE CULLEN PROPOSALS

Reports by  
Richard Ford,  
Dominic Kennedy  
and David Charter

the safety of the public; new power to seize and detain any firearm certificate found.

- Power of search to be extended to civilian licensing officials who will get power to inspect dealers, registers and approved gun clubs.

- Moves to enable police forces to hold and exchange information on computer about individuals holding certificates, and those whose applications have been refused or had certificates revoked.

- New power to allow the police to revoke a certificate

officer with the police.

- Conditions for granting or renewing certificate to be dependent on a chief officer of police being satisfied that application is fit to be entrusted with firearms.
- Guidance to police to contain advice as to the scope of the term "fitness" relating to a person holding a firearm.
- Each club to inform police of application for membership and the outcome.
- Each applicant for membership to state whether he or she has submitted a prior application for certificate which has been refused or has had a certificate revoked. Current system of applications being countersigned abolished and replaced with one requiring two references.
- Restriction on the availability of self-loading pistols and revolvers of any calibre by their disablement.
- Safety strategy for the protection of schoolchildren against attack to be drawn up by education authorities.
- New system for accreditation to a national body of all clubs and groups that are attended by children aged under 16. Main purpose would be to allow checks on the suitability of the clubs' leaders and workers.

The Government announced four further measures:

- Handgun shooters must obtain a certificate in order to fire a handgun in a gun club.
- It will be a criminal offence to fail to notify police whenever a firearm or shotgun is sold, transferred, de-activated or destroyed.
- There will be a ban on the sale of guns through the post.
- It will be illegal to possess expanding ammunition except for purpose of shooting deer.

The Government also said that all gun clubs must be licensed by the Secretary of State. New standards of security for licenses will include reinforced walls, strong perimeter fences, burglar alarms linked directly to the police, metal detectors at entrances to prevent guns being removed, and regular inspections by police.

where there is no good reason for having a firearm.

- Each registered club must maintain a register of attendance of its members who are holders of firearms certificates, together with details of arms they have used.
- Each holder of a certificate must be a member of at least one approved club and the certificate must specify the club. Clubs to inform police when a certificate holder ceases to be a member.
- Club must inform police when a certificate holder has not attended for a year.
- Each club to appoint a member to act as liaison

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The Government announced four further measures:

Handgun shooters must obtain a certificate in order to fire a handgun in a gun club.

It will be a criminal offence to fail to notify police whenever a firearm or shotgun is sold, transferred, de-activated or destroyed.

There will be a ban on the sale of guns through the post.

It will be illegal to possess expanding ammunition except for purpose of shooting deer.

The Government also said that all gun clubs must be licensed by the Secretary of State.

New standards of security for licenses will include reinforced walls, strong perimeter fences, burglar alarms linked directly to the police,

metal detectors at entrances to prevent guns being removed, and regular inspections by police.

where there is no good reason for having a firearm.

Each registered club must maintain a register of attendance of its members who are holders of firearms certificates, together with details of arms they have used.

Each holder of a certificate must be a member of at least one approved club and the certificate must specify the club.

Clubs to inform police when a certificate holder ceases to be a member.

Club must inform police when a certificate holder has not attended for a year.

Each club to appoint a member to act as liaison

officer with the police.

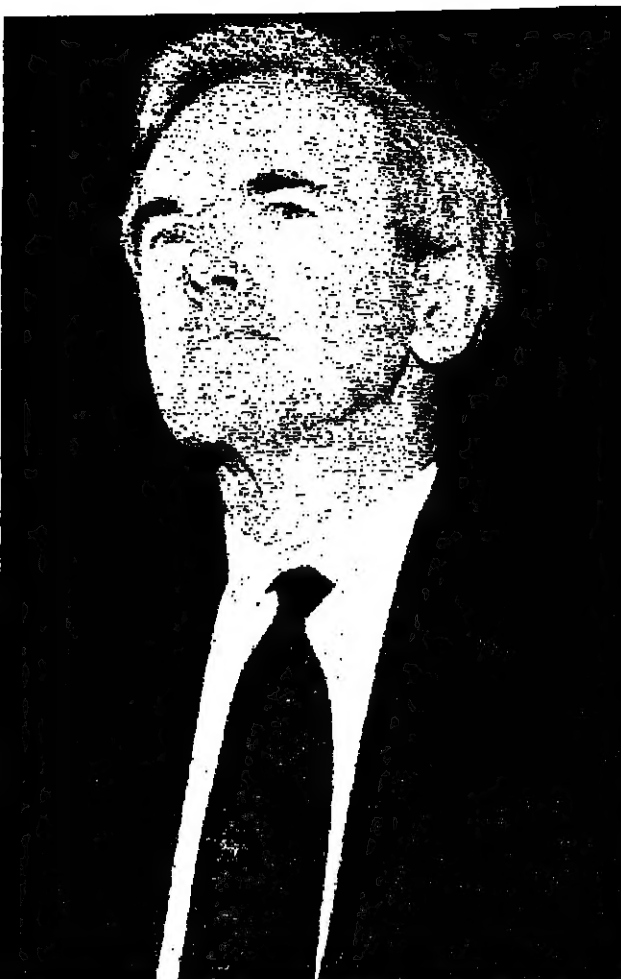
Conditions for granting or renewing certificate to be dependent on a chief officer of police being satisfied that application is fit to be entrusted with firearms.

Guidance to police to contain advice as to the scope of the term "fitness" relating to a person holding a firearm.

Each club to inform police of application for membership and the outcome.

Each applicant for membership to state whether he or she has submitted a prior application for certificate which has been refused or has had a certificate revoked.

Current system of applications being countersigned abolished and replaced with one requiring two references.



Thomas Hamilton, left, and Lord Cullen, who said the gunman could have killed every child in the gym

## Volunteers for child work will be checked for criminal records

### YOUTH CLUBS

EVERY youth club and youth organisation will be able to vet the criminal records of adults who volunteer to work with children, the Government said yesterday.

In a far-reaching measure to protect the young from suspect youth leaders, ministers have gone further than Lord Cullen's recommendations. They have accepted his idea that a new voluntary accreditation body, showing that proper safeguards to root out unsuitable applicants have been taken, should be created. All youth groups will be able to join the body. Talks will begin immediately with organisations throughout the country to create the agency.

Lord Cullen notes that adults have many opportunities to make contact with children and young people, from Scouts and Guides to personal tuition, sports clubs and arts, music and drama coaching. Criminal record checks can be made on adults who are teachers, work in

health or social work and provide day care for children under eight. Although large well-organised voluntary organisations appear to have codes for protecting children from abuse, more informal clubs have less vetting.

The Department of Health in England provides information about convictions of people in childcare work to social work authorities and voluntary organisations. A similar service is available in Northern Ireland. The Department of Education lists the names of people who have left childcare work in circumstances suggesting that children were at risk. No such service exists in Scotland.

The Government announced that access to criminal record checks will be extended to all voluntary youth organisations. Lord Cullen described the criminal records as, in effect, a

"paedophile register". "At present there is nothing to prevent an individual declaring himself or herself a 'youth leader', renting premises and starting a youth club or some other similar kind of activity for children over eight," his report says.

The Scottish Office estimates that up to 100,000 adults are associated with 11,000 recognised voluntary youth organisations. A similar number may have access to children, befrienders, home visitors and playgroup workers.

Voluntary organisations have no direct access to the Scottish Criminal Records Office but even if they had, the check would have revealed nothing about Thomas Hamilton. Yet the Scout Association's experience was sufficient to "blacklist" him. Lord Cullen said it was desirable to find a means of assembling

information that would alert a legitimate inquirer about a person's behaviour to his potential unsuitability.

He calls for an accrediting body that would be responsible for guidelines on recruitment, training and monitoring of workers with substantial unsupervised access to children, with a view to minimising the risk of abuse. Clubs and groups with suitable codes of practice on checking their workers could be accredited.

Other clubs and groups could provide information about the suitability of individuals. "Great care, would, of course, require to be taken in order to ensure that the information which was recorded was accurate," the report says. "Whether and to what extent the information would be released to a 'member' club or group official who enquired about a particular applicant or worker would depend upon what he needed to know."

## Schools must not be turned into little fortresses

### SECURITY

SCHOOLS must ensure that teachers have regular training in coping with aggressive intruders and should consider fitting panic buttons in outlying classrooms, Lord Cullen advised.

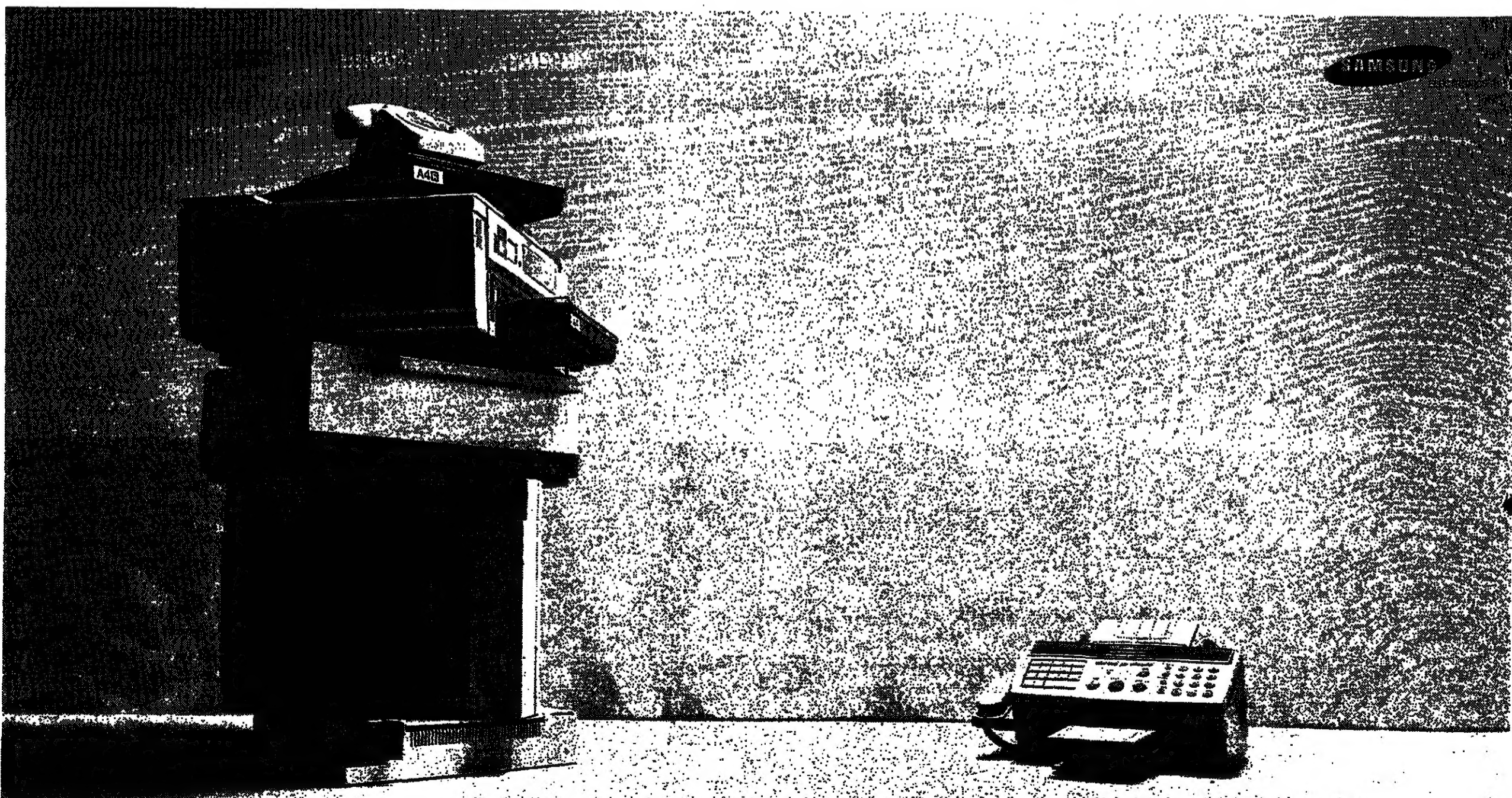
A checklist of measures to improve classroom security was set out in the report, but he was adamant that schools should not become fortresses.

Every school had different safety needs, but each required a thorough risk assessment in the light of the Dunblane massacre. "If a blanket approach to the installation of measures is adopted, this may involve unnecessary or inappropriate expenditure," he added. "Whatever measures are taken, it is unrealistic to expect that the risk of a violent intruder gaining access to a school can be eliminated."

Lord Cullen's views echo those of the Government's working party on school safety, set up after the fatal stabbing of Philip Lawrence, the London head teacher, last December. Teachers' leaders criticised his report for not demanding extra government money. Ministers have promised to announce "substantial new funding" next month which schools can bid for in April to improve security.

Lord Cullen said schools should consider panic alarms or telephones in their classrooms, particularly those remote from the main buildings. Closed-circuit television cameras would help only if they were constantly monitored. Head teachers should ask whether public access to grounds and the number of doors should be restricted, and whether they needed an entryphone system or locks operated by code. Parents and others visiting school might have to give advance notice.

Ronnie Smith, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, of which the murdered Dunblane teacher Gwen May was a member, said that Lord Cullen had achieved a balance between security and a welcoming environment.



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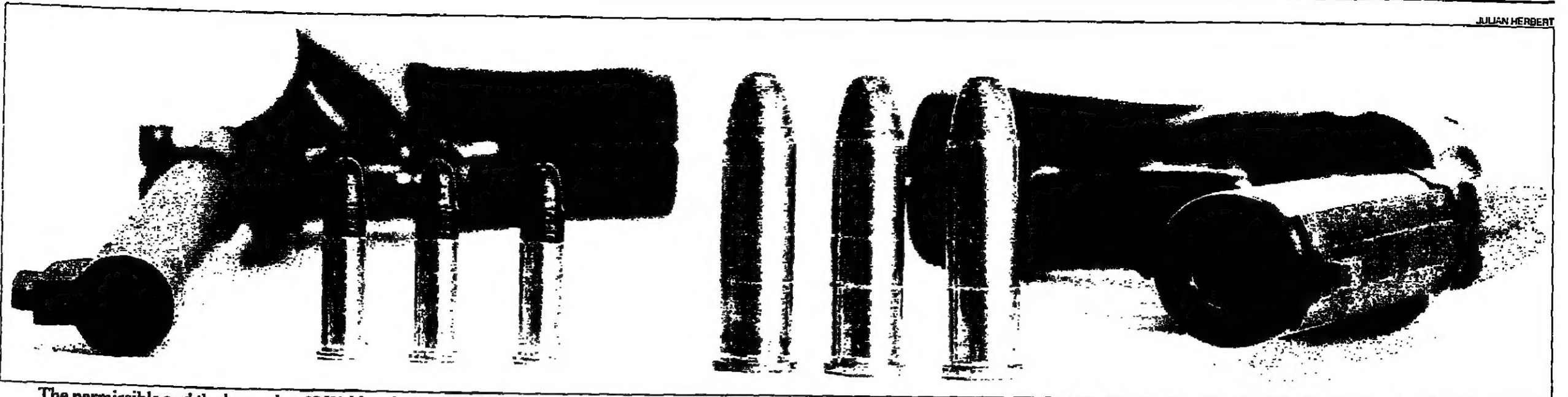
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The permissible and the banned: a .22 Webley single shot target pistol would be allowed within the secure confines of a gun club; the .38 Smith & Wesson would be banned for anyone but professionals

## Club enthusiasts say rules will stop British Olympic teams

BRITAIN'S gun-club enthusiasts last night angrily denied that the Government's proposals would eliminate the "gun culture" responsible for the Dunblane tragedy.

The British Shooting Sports Council, an umbrella group for the sport, described the ministerial proposals as a "disappointment" and insisted that they would play no part in curbing violent crime.

Pat Johnson, the secretary of the group, said that many of the country's 2,500 clubs may have to close either because they are pistol-only clubs or they will find the new regulations too expensive. He issued a warning that many clubs, enthusiasts, and manufacturers may demand financial compensation.

"The main effect of the Government's proposal will be to make Britain the only country in the world unable to compete in a sport where we have for generations achieved success," Mr Johnson said.

"Our Olympic pistol shooter in Atlanta required a semi-automatic pistol to compete in his event. It will even exclude us from our own Commonwealth Games. The decision may put at risk Manchester's bid to host the Games."

"Lord Cullen highlighted failures of the system of licensing and the council supports all the forms that will strengthen the controls which prevent the wrong person from being licensed to hold a gun."

However, Mr Johnson said: "Parliament has an honorable tradition of protecting the rights of legitimate minorities against passing populist prejudices. Shooters have the same entitlement to their protection as any other sportsmen or any other minority. We expect to be given it."

Mr Johnson said it was a shame the government had been unable to hold the line drawn in the sand by Lord Cullen but had decided to go further. He suggested that the two main political parties had been vying with each other for

### REACTION

Reports by  
Richard Ford,  
Stewart Tendler,  
Michael Evans,  
Alice Thomson and  
James Landale

several weeks to carry political favour. It was unlikely in that atmosphere that the gun lobby would receive a fair hearing.

Carol Page, an Olympic competitor who used semi-automatic weapons in Atlanta, said shooting was the second largest participation sport after football. She said that under the Government's proposals it would be enormously difficult for Olympic hopefuls to achieve the required standard.

She suggested that the gun lobby had been punished by the sins of Thomas Hamilton and insisted that it was not gun-club enthusiasts who were to blame for the tragedy.

The Bisleigh firing ranges in Surrey, where about 30 gun clubs are based, now face an uncertain future. Geoff Doe, 52, a member of the Worpleston Rifle and Pistol Club in Surrey, and development officer for the National Small Bore Rifle Association, which represents the interests of thousands of rifle and handgun enthusiasts, said: "It is pure, raw emotion. Taking pistols away from their legitimate owners will not stop another Hungerford or Dunblane."

At Bisleigh, Mr Doe said that even if small clubs could afford increased security to store .22 weapons, it would not stop determined criminals. He knew of one case where a crane was used to smash a wall so that the gun safe could be stolen. Mr Woodall said his club, Wandsworth, which charges about £50 a year, tried simply to cover its costs. "We will have to win the National Lottery," he said.

Brian Woodall, 44, of Ludlow, Shropshire, was another practising at Bisleigh yesterday. He too opposes any ban. "My own view is that it will not achieve anything," said Mr Woodall, a member of the Borough of Wandsworth Rifle Club and a .22 pistol enthusiast.

"So many times the view taken is simplistic. When they talk of guns, it's all one thing to them."

The Walther Free pistol he demonstrated yesterday takes about ten seconds for a skilled gunman to reload and fires a single shot at a time. Semi-automatic handguns fire several bullets in a matter of seconds. Shooters at Bisleigh, which caters for handguns with barrels measuring up to .45 of an inch, likened the difference between high and low-calibre weapons to the difference between the 100 metres and the marathon in athletics. Each required a different skill and even to ban weapons greater in calibre than .22 would be to unfairly deprive them of their sport.

One of Britain's biggest gun clubs Dunmore, in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, said it may close as a result of the new measures. Eight out of ten of its 500 members shoot guns of above .22 calibre and to bring security up to the required standard for the few remaining members would cost tens of thousands of pounds.

Francis Lovel, a director, said: "It is catastrophic. This has all been done for political expediency and will not solve anything." The club employs 13 people and has a £1 million annual turnover. Mr Lovel predicted that most small clubs, charging a few pounds membership a year, would fold.

The Government's compensation package for gun owners is expected to cost £24 million with payments averaging £150 per gun. Each owner will be offered a flat-rate payment for each gun or a price based on an evaluation of the market value of the weapon.

## Legal .22 can still be lethal at short range

THE ban on most handguns will remove from lawful ownership a long list of lethal weapons but the .22 pistol, which can kill at short range, is to remain a licensed weapon.

"Just because it's a small bullet doesn't mean it's not lethal," Ian Hogg, former editor of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*, said yesterday after the government announcement on the banning of all handguns above .22 calibre.

Mr Hogg said the present standard ammunition used by Nato forces was .223 in, not much larger than the .22 in, although it was for a rifle, not a handgun, and was therefore a much more powerful weapon.

In terms of lethality, the larger the bullet, the greater the damage suffered by a shooting victim. A 9mm round fired at a limb, for example, could have devastating consequences leading to death from loss of blood, whereas a .22 in bullet might cause only minor injury.

However, a .22 bullet fired accurately at a vulnerable part of the body from close range could kill, Mr Hogg said. A number of assassinations have involved the firing of .22 calibre weapons. Robert Kennedy, the brother of President John Kennedy, was shot dead by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in 1968 with a .22 Iver Johnson revolver. President Reagan and his press secretary were shot and injured with a .22 calibre pistol by John Hinckley in 1981.

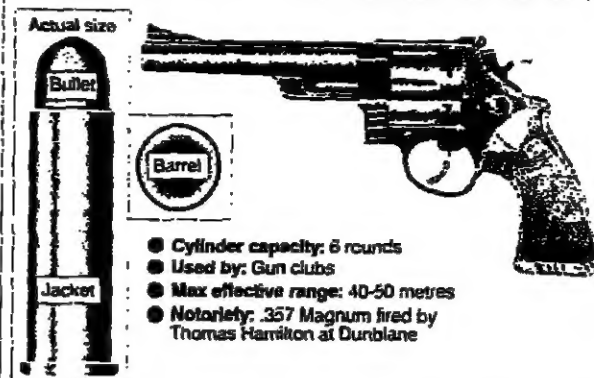
Most recently, Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, was assassinated in November last year after being shot at at close range with a .22 calibre pistol.

The more powerful pistols and revolvers banned by the Government yesterday include the 9mm Browning, which will now be used legitimately only by the Armed Forces and the police. Capable of rapid-firing 13 rounds, it is acknowledged to be one of the most effective guns. Other 9mm guns include the Ruger, Beretta and Walther P38.

Other guns facing the blanket ban include the most popular weapon used by gun clubs, the .38 calibre, which is made by all the recognised manufacturers, such as Smith & Wesson and Colt. John Lennon was assassinated in 1980 by a .38 special.

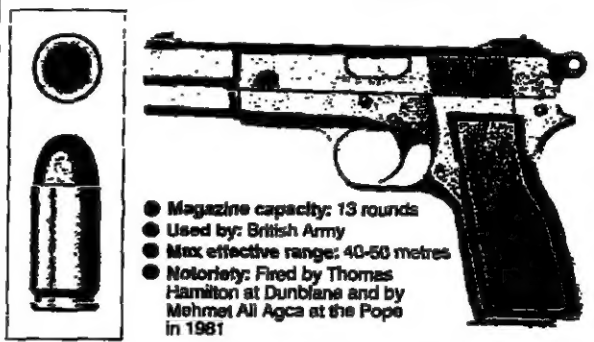
The ban will also affect all Magnum guns, such as the .357 and the .44 and .41, described by Mr Hogg as the "macho" gun used by the baseball cap and beer belly brigade and made famous by

### BANNED: .44 MAGNUM SMITH & WESSON



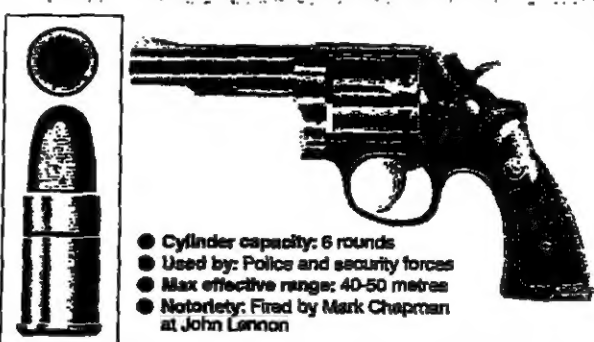
- Cylinder capacity: 6 rounds
- Used by: Gun clubs
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notoriety: .357 Magnum fired by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane

### BANNED: 9mm BROWNING



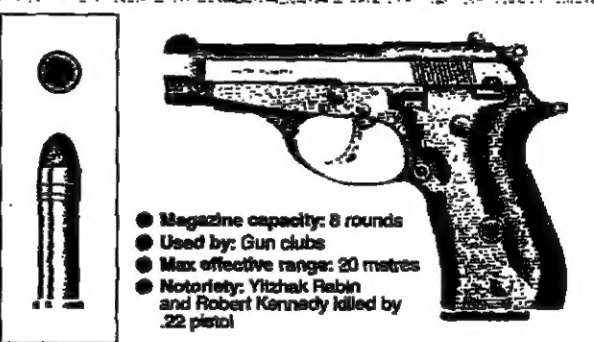
- Magazine capacity: 13 rounds
- Used by: British Army
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notoriety: Fired by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane and by Mehmet Ali Agca at the Pope in 1981

### BANNED: .38 SMITH & WESSON



- Cylinder capacity: 6 rounds
- Used by: Police and security forces
- Max effective range: 40-50 metres
- Notoriety: Fired by Mark Chapman at John Lennon

### RESTRICTED: .22 BERETTA



- Magazine capacity: 8 rounds
- Used by: Gun clubs
- Max effective range: 20 metres
- Notoriety: Yitzhak Rabin and Robert Kennedy killed by .22 pistol

Clint Eastwood in Hollywood's *Dirty Harry* films. James Bond initially had the 0.35mm Beretta and later changed to a 7.65mm Beretta.

Another .38 calibre gun that will be banned is the Webley service revolver, the main sidearm in the British Armed Forces for many years, although it was largely replaced by the Browning. The IRA is known to have a stock of Webley revolvers.

## Police criticised for allowing Hamilton to own handguns

### LICENSING

LORD CULLEN is highly critical of the way central Scotland Police gave Thomas Hamilton permission to hold more than one handgun of the same calibre.

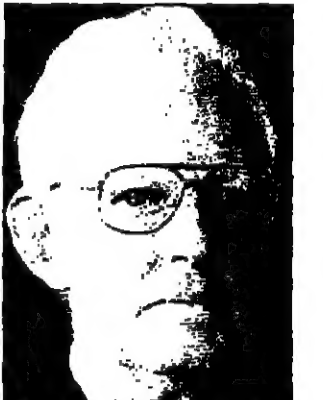
His report says that the reasons given and accepted for Hamilton being authorised to do so were unsatisfactory. His authority to own firearms and obtain ammunition had been renewed without inquiry despite his misuse of the weapons. The underlying reason for this state was the unsatisfactory way in which official guidance to police was expressed. Although Hamilton's fitness to be trusted with a firearm was challenged after an incident at a summer camp, no action was taken.

Lord Cullen says Douglas McMurdo, then Deputy Chief Constable, should have made further inquiries after concerns were expressed by junior officers about the incident. "On balance there was a case for revocation [of the certificate] which should have been acted upon. The same considerations should have led in any event to the refusal of Hamilton's subsequent applications for renewal of his firearms certificate."

Hamilton was granted a firearm certificate in February 1977; his reason was that he was a target-shooter at a shooting club. At the time of his death he held more than one firearm of the same calibre, both pistols and revolvers but Lord Cullen criticises a decision in 1986 to allow Hamilton to acquire a second 9mm pistol.

The reasons given were that he was "active in competition shooting throughout the country". But Lord Cullen says the statement was an exaggeration because of the scale of his purchase of 9mm ammunition in the preceding years. There was no evidence that he was engaged in competition shooting to any significant extent "let alone throughout the country".

In 1992 he was given permission to acquire a second .357 revolver but the report says there is no satisfactory evidence that Hamilton was



McMurdo resigned his post yesterday

engaged in competitive shooting. This does not inspire me with confidence that at least in the case of Thomas Hamilton there was good reason for the authority for additional handguns of the same calibre."

The report adds: "Thomas Hamilton's authority to hold and acquire or purchase ammunition was renewed in 1992 and 1995 where, according to the purchases recorded on his certificate, he was not shooting to any significant extent."

Mr McMurdo received information about Hamilton's display of firearms to a family but decided no action should be taken. The information was not put in a firearms file relating to Hamilton although it should have been and it was not entered in criminal intelligence records.

A second warning in November 1991 in which a detective sergeant warned that Hamilton was an unsavoury character and unstable was also not entered in the firearms file though it should have been. The copy was not put in criminal intelligence records.

The report says Mr McMurdo had difficulty in envisaging cases in which a person could be shown to be "unfit" to be entrusted with a firearm where there was no previous criminal conviction or pending case. Lord Cullen says that Mr McMurdo "adopted an unduly narrow approach in which he paid not much more than lip-service to the idea that a person could be 'unfit' in the absence of a conviction or pending criminal case."

## Labour MPs call for closure of basement range

LABOUR MPs last night put down a motion calling for MPs to set an example and close the Palace of Westminster rifle range. But members of the House of Commons shooting club are adamant it should continue.

The 25-yard range, which lies deep in the bowels of the House of Lords, lies behind a securely locked door with a sign that declares: "Authorized personnel only. Contact control engineers prior to access." There are no directions to the club and it is extremely difficult to find. Members must have a full Westminster security pass and pay a subscription of £15 a year.

Most of the weapons used are .22-calibre single-shot rifles. Recently, however, some .22-calibre and .38-calibre pistols have been introduced. All weapons used are kept on the premises in a securely locked armoury.

It is probably one of the few clubs that will meet the new strict government criteria for shooting ranges. But a growing number of MPs on both sides say it is an embarrassment. Several women MPs are lobbying hard to make the space into a creche.

Tony Banks, MP for New-

### WESTMINSTER

ham North West, who yesterday put forward the motion to close the club, said: "If these MPs carry on using the club, at the least it will be considered insensitive and at the worst arrogant and dangerous. We don't get many opportunities to set an example and this should be one of them."

A policeman in the Lords yesterday said: "The club will be back. MPs use it every day and one evening a week. They use it to let off steam."

Unlike other Westminster sports clubs, the members of the shooting club are not listed anywhere but at least 50 of exist. The chairman is Michael Colvin, MP for Romsey and Waterside. Despite having refrained from shooting yesterday, they say they will fight to keep the range going.

No one would defend the club publicly but one Tory member in the Lords said: "The shooting is highly regulated and the range is checked regularly by Home Office inspectors." He added: "This range has been going since 1916, since the First World War, we can't just get rid of it in this knee-jerk way."

## Emotion must not sweep MPs into framing bad law

Parliament is likely to take the right decision over banning handguns, but is reaching it in an overhasty way. There is a strong case for banning guns that have the most tenuous sporting justification. The rationalisations of the gun lobby are tortuous and unconvincing. A clear-cut ban is likely to isolate illegal holders of guns more effectively than a partial ban.

The key point was the acceptance by Michael Howard that in Britain owning a gun is a privilege, while by contrast it is seen in America as a constitutional right. The force of public opinion has led the Government to bring forward much stronger controls than even Lord Cullen proposes, while Labour supports a complete ban.

Mr Howard and Jack Straw put forward reasoned cases for their viewpoints. Mr Straw emphasised the problems of allowing .22 handguns in gun clubs even under much tighter security standards. Mr Howard argued that a ban might produce the same difficulties as in other prohibitions, by driving the use of handguns under-

ground without strict security. Mr Howard rejected the call by David Mellor that the Bill should include alternative clauses, as occurred with the legislation on shop opening hours on Sundays and over time limits on abortions.

The opposition parties have already said they will allow a free vote, though the Government will whip its MPs. A number of urban Tories, including Mr Mellor, Robert Hughes and Hugh Dykes, have said they support a total ban. Some rural Tories and allies of the gun lobby, such as Henry Bellingham, John Carlisle and Edward Leigh, were critical of the Government for already having gone beyond Lord Cullen's recommendations.

My hunch, however, is that a Labour and Liberal Democrat proposal for a total ban would be approved by the Commons with the backing of a number of Tories and others abstaining. The momentum is behind the Snowdrop campaign and the

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

call for a ban. Mr Forsyth was adamant yesterday that the Government had not changed its position, since it had not formed one until Tuesday when he and Mr Howard presented a joint paper to their colleagues. But during the process of policy formation Mr Forsyth edged his colleagues towards a firmer line, which prevailed. Labour has also strengthened its position in the past fortnight.

Mr Howard is keen for the necessary legislation to be in place by Christmas. While an urgent response is owed to the victims of Dunblane, I wonder if such speed is justified. Hasty legislation is often regretted and much amended later.

A tide of emotion leads to strong demands for action, and the Government with Opposition support rushes legislation through Parliament. Enthusiasts for instant action should first read the report of the Hansard Society Commission on *The Legislative Process*, published four years ago. This warned about the perils of ill-considered

legislation, notably the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991 which went from publication to Royal Assent in six weeks, having gone through the Commons in a single day. Only the Lords gave the measure even semi-adequate consideration. But that law is widely seen as flawed.

There has, of course, already been a wider debate about lighter gun controls, not only in the Cullen report but in the enquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee in the summer. But since the conclusions of both have been rejected, there is a case for at least a pause to consider the practical implications of the alternatives put forward by the Government and the Opposition.

Commons procedures already allow for special standing committees to question witnesses on details of legislation. That would mean a delay of only two or three weeks at most. A ban on handguns is overwhelmingly justified, but however strong the emotions, Parliament still has a duty to ensure that legislation works in practice.

PETER RIDDELL

## Actors and vets will be allowed to keep weapons

VETERINARY surgeons are among the "few professionals" who will be exempted from the ban on the possession of handguns, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

"There are no specific exemptions from the ban," a Home Office spokesman said last night. "But groups such as vets, which can make out a convincing case, will be able to apply to the Secretary of State for a special licence to keep handguns at home."

Athletics officials who use starting-pistols and actors playing roles that require them to carry guns are among those who would be exempted if they applied, officials said.

A spokeswoman for the British Veterinary Association said: "It would have made sense if this had not been allowed." There are about 3,600 veterinary practices in Britain, of which 1,000 deal exclusively with small animals such as cats and dogs and use lethal injections for euthanasia. But the remaining 2,600 use .32 and .38 pistols to kill incurably sick or injured large animals, such as farm livestock and horses.

Richard Jones, president of the British Equine Veterinary Association, said: "Barbiturates can be used to put down horses, but because of the drug residues the carcass cannot then be used for human consumption. The shoguns used by game shooters and kept by many farmers are excluded because handguns are defined as pistols or revolvers designed to be held and fired using one hand only."

Robbin Peel, of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, representing 112,000 mainly game and clay pigeon shooters, said: "The vast majority of our members will be unaffected, but there will be some farmers and gamekeepers who keep pistols for close-quarter dispatch of wounded animals."

He added: "As a matter of principle, we regard it as extremely illogical that someone who is deemed an appropriate person to own one type of gun should be prohibited from holding another type of weapon."

### EXEMPTIONS

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'As a picture it is disappointing. It is of a standard of a nine-year-old boy'

## 'Childish' Hitler painting fetches £2,500 at auction

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A WATERCOLOUR of Vienna attributed to Hitler was auctioned yesterday for £2,500, almost three times the estimate. International auctioneers refuse to touch works connected to the Nazis but the painting, signed A. Hitler and dated 1911, was sold by a Lincolnshire firm.

The picture, 10in by 14½in, shows figures scurrying across a square. It was identified as a Hitler watercolour because of its poor quality. Robert Horner, an auctioneer and salesroom manager for Dickinson, Davy and Markham, of Brigg, said: "As a painting it is of a standard of my nine-year-old son."

It was bought by Michelle Donaldson, an accounts and finance lecturer at North Lindsey College of Technology, Scunthorpe, on behalf of her father, a foundry owner, who is in America.

Jonathan Friend, of Hull Reform Synagogue, said: "It is distasteful that such paintings by Adolf Hitler are still available. No good can come from them and it is better that they are not around."

As far as the art market is concerned, the only thing in



Hitler was embittered by academy rejections

the picture's favour is the artist's name. Beyond that it has little going for it. The painting is clumsy and two-dimensional and the composition, brushwork and imagery are as awkward and lacking in sensitivity as they are crude and lifeless. It illustrates perfectly why Hitler was turned down by Austria's Academy of Fine Arts.

Another auctioneer at the sale, Graham Paddison, said that it was the lack of quality

that enabled them to identify Hitler's hand. He said that confirmation had come from a specialist in Third Reich and Nazi items, Michael Mackintosh. The type of paper was contemporary with the date.

The watercolour was sold with Third Reich memorabilia, including one of the funeral wreaths given by Hitler to the widows of high party officials. Mr Paddison said that the objects were collected from an apartment in Hamburg in 1945 by the seller.

The picture was painted after Hitler's repeated rejection from the Vienna academy, the records of which show that his drawings were dismissed as "inadequate". An embittered Hitler, it is said, told a companion that the academy should be blown up. Historians have speculated on the course that history might have taken if he had been accepted.

Phillip Saunders, a leading specialist in art and the war years, said: "These works are more interesting because of who painted them. I'm sure of that 100 per cent." He added that they had a "curio interest" rather than an artistic interest and that they were pur-



The watercolour of a Vienna square, dated 1911. Its lack of quality helped the auctioneers to identify the artist

chased by collectors of memorabilia rather than collectors of art. German museums sought them for their historical interest.

Commenting on the difficulties of identifying Hitler's style, he said: "You have to rely on provenance, although you also have to prove the provenance."

Such works appear on the market every so often. In 1991, two of Hitler's floral images were offered at a Yorkshire

auction house and last year a watercolour was sold to an American for £9,500.

Mr Paddison said that his firm had since been offered another half a dozen Hitler watercolours: "We often sell Nazi and Third Reich items, mainly bayonets, daggers, flags and uniforms. Nobody condones what went on, but it is a collecting field in its own right. We're just the middlemen who seem to get into trouble."

Miss Donaldson said: "My dad told me he wanted it and, because he's in America, I came along for him. It's the first time I've ever been to an auction, or bid for a lot. But I was determined to get it."

"I was so nervous as the price went up and didn't know how much I was going to have to pay for it. He will be happy. I think he would have been upset if it had gone to someone else."

Hitler's interest in art was to

grow into an obsession for collecting it. His personal curator corresponded with his personal assistant almost daily and in minute detail about works Hitler that wished to acquire.

Thousands of works were collected for Hitler's proposed museum in Linz, Austria, which he had planned to be the largest in the world.

Nazi treasures, page 18

## Gladiators star fined for attack on former husband

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE former *Gladiators* star Phoenix was sentenced to 150 hours of community service yesterday for beating up her ex-husband over custody of their son.

Sandy Young, a kickboxer who once held the title Bodybuilding Miss UK, was told to pay compensation of £125 at the rate of £10 a week. Judge Mott, sitting at Worcester Crown Court, also sentenced Young's former boyfriend, Mark Eustace, 38, to 80 hours' community service and told him to pay £75 compensation for his part in the attack.

At a previous hearing, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Young launched an attack of "wanton violence and revenge" on Stephen Young, her ex-husband, which left him with a broken ankle. She and Eustace had previously pleaded guilty to charges of assault.

Tom Storey, for the prosecution, said: "Mrs Young went to her ex-husband's house in a high temper, being aggressive and hostile." A fight had broken out between the two in which "both were injured to some extent".

"Once the violence stopped, Sandra Young called to Mr Eustace, who had been remaining out of sight. He delivered a blow as a result of which Mr Young fell to the ground. Once on the ground both kicked out at Mr Young."

It was only when Mr Young's girlfriend, Elsa Jones, came into the room that Eustace, a metal worker, "came to his senses" and "tried to stop his co-accused from continuing her attack on Mr Young and Miss Jones".

Young, 31, who lives with her 11-year-old son, was arrested on November 24 last year, three weeks after the attack. She was one of the first *Gladiators* in the LWT show and gave up her job at a chemist in Dudley, West Midlands, after being hounded by autograph hunters.

She was dropped from the programme in late 1992 for not coming up to scratch. She took up bodybuilding after the birth of her son, Lee. A *Gladiators* spokesman said yesterday: "She simply didn't have the strength needed to compete in the show."

The programme is hosted by John Fashanu and Ulrika Jonsson and filmed at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena and has become cult viewing for millions.

After the case Young said: "The whole truth has not come out and I am very upset about it. What was said in court and in the papers was complete fabrication."

## Heirlooms of Parker Bowles sell for £30,000

BY ALAN HAMILTON

CAMILLA Parker Bowles found herself £30,000 better off last night after selling a collection of 19th-century family heirlooms connected with a royal mistress of an earlier age.

The vases, urns, bowls and candlesticks made from the flintspar mineral commonly known as Derbyshire blue John had been inherited by Mrs Parker Bowles from her maternal grandmother, Sonia Cubitt, eldest daughter of Alice Keppel, mistress of Edward VII.

Nine of the 12 lots offered at Christie's South Kensington were bought over the telephone by Avocato Memo, an American specialist collector of blue John ware. Two lots went to other telephone bidders, while the



Parker Bowles: clearly identified as seller

top individual price of £8,050, for an 11in-high ornamental urn, went to another anonymous buyer.

Mrs Parker Bowles was not present to watch brisk telephone bidding push the collection to twice the overall estimate. One George III-style bowl, valued at not more than £400, went for £1,500. She apparently had no objection to being identified in the sale catalogue, which further stated clearly from whom the collection had been inherited.

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مكتبة من الأصل



# First night of cliffhanger swept along by blue-rinse tidal wave

Sir Cliff Richard's *Heathcliff*, which opened in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena last night, is as review-proof as any new musical will ever be. Advance sales top £5.5 million. More than a hundred nights of its 126-night British tour are already sold out. And tonight's first-night tickets at up to ten times their face value to the hundreds of fans — known as "cliffhangers" in the trade — who hit Birmingham like a blue-rinse tidal wave yesterday.

For their part, the fans outside the hall yesterday raved about the show even before the curtain rose. "The album already makes me cry; it's the best thing Cliff has ever done," said Susan Wilton, who had travelled from Frome, Somerset, with her daughters. "The newspapers have always hated Cliff because he's nice and also successful," Gillian Parkinson, from Coventry, added. "He's still got the best voice and the best looks in pop."

Jill Armstrong, 33, and Barbara Byrne, 35, did not see the show but sat outside hoping for a glimpse of Sir Cliff. They were in no doubt about his ability to deliver a hit musical. "He's wanted to do this for so long and it's his dream. I'm sure he'll do well."



*Cliff Richard has asked that his musical Heathcliff be given a fair chance by the critics, but his fans are already certain they are going to love it, Richard Morrison writes*

Miss Armstrong said. But as Sir Cliff launched the spectacular £3.5 million adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel *Wuthering Heights*, he made a plea for a little critical understanding.

"I hope people just give me a fair crack of the whip," the singer said. "All I can do is do my best." He also dismissed taunts that he is too old to play the wild man of the Yorkshire moors who, in the novel, dies at 38. "For years people have been telling me how young I look. I am the perfect person to play a 38-year-old."

His fears of a critical mauling may be justified. The notion of this squeaky-clean British pop icon playing one of the most bitter and twisted figures in 19th-century literature has caused a certain merriment in cynical circles.

And at many points in its six-year genesis his Brontë project appeared to be withering rather than

wuthering. A search for the right actress to play Cathy involved an audition process almost as protracted as that for Scarlett O'Hara. Olivia Newton John sang the part on the *Heathcliff* album, issued last year, but at 47 was considered too mature to partner the 56-year-old Sir Cliff. Helen Hobson took the role on stage last night.

However, Sir Cliff has never lost faith in the project, which was inspired, he says, by a book that he has loved since he was a schoolboy. He has declared that *Heathcliff* will be "the pinnacle of my career", and has sunk an estimated £2 million of his own money in the project.

He has hinted that the five-month tour of *Heathcliff*, which takes in Edinburgh and Manchester before arriving at Labatt's Apollo in London next February, will be his swansong. If so, it will crown one of the most

remarkable careers in 20th-century entertainment. He has spanned five decades, achieved 13 gold discs and sung on more than 100 hit records.

Last year he rivalled Dame Vera Lynn as the prime attraction of the VE-Day celebrations. He was knighted in June, shortly before he led a rain-soaked Wimbledon Centre Court crowd in a singalong medley of his hits. Anyone less like the misanthropic Heathcliff would be hard to imagine — but that is the transforming power of drama.

Sir Tim Rice was recruited to distil Brontë's turbulent tale of dark, moorside vengeance into a series of pithy pop-song lyrics. John Farrar, who supplied some of the hits for the film *Grease*, wrote the tunes. And Frank Dunlop, former director of the Edinburgh Festival, was hired to stage the epic.

Stage it in epic style he has done. His evocation of the Yorkshire moors involves 1,000 litres of smoke fluid and a hundredweight of snow in every performance, plus a technical staff of 200. Brad Jeffries, sometime choreographer for Madonna, added dance routines, including some bizarre sequences for tribal dancers. Emily Brontë unaccountably left them out of her novel.



Novel production: Cliff Richard as Heathcliff and Helen Hobson as Cathy

## Death car pair 'lied to dodge breath test'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE swapped seats in an effort to beat a breath test as a man hit by their car lay dying, a court was told yesterday.

Clive Berry said that his wife was behind the wheel because he feared he was over the legal alcohol limit. Simon Temple, for the prosecution, told Manchester Crown Court. In fact Angela Berry, 40, was in the passenger seat. They concocted the story after their car knocked down Keith Handley, 31, in Fallsworth, Greater Manchester, in December. Mr Handley, who was crossing the road to meet his family in a pub, died the next day. Police are satisfied that the driver was not to blame.

Mr Berry, a sales manager, had drunk three or four cans of beer, Mr Temple said. He told police the following evening that he had been driving.

Mrs Berry, 40, told the jury: "The man's family were there and I was frightened they might get nasty. I said I was driving because I thought they might be more sympathetic to a woman."

Mr and Mrs Berry, of Hepworth, west Yorkshire, deny perverting the course of justice. The trial continues.

## Duke loses inheritance on routine trip to vet

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

DUKE, a Yorkshire terrier from a line of 24 champions, was mistakenly castrated on a routine visit to the vet to have its milk teeth removed.

The operation, carried out by a Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals clinic in Salford, Greater Manchester, put an end to the ten-month-old puppy's chances of prolonging the line registered at the Kennel Club as Lord of Landgate. Its owner, Elaine Digby, 42, of Ashton-under-Lyne, was hoping to put the pedigree dog out to stud.

Mrs Digby said that she took Duke in for an examination five days before the operation and a vet asked her if she wanted it castrated at the same time. She said that she did not. After the operation, the clinic tried to charge her £25.

The dog is said by the family to be worth more than £200 and could have earned £100 a time in stud fees. Mrs Digby's husband, Derek, 48, said that the family had decided to give the dog away to a neighbour.

The RSPCA apologised for the error and promised to try to ensure that similar mistakes did not happen again.

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TIN1



# £300m scheme to replace Bart's hospital by 2001

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S oldest hospital, St Bartholomew's, will close by 2001, the chairman of the NHS trust which manages it said yesterday.

The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Bart's, announced a £300 million scheme to build a new hospital in Whitechapel, east London, which will replace Bart's and three other hospitals. St Bartholomew's has stood on the same site in Smithfield for almost 870 years. It was founded in 1125 to care for the sick and poor of the City of London and is the only one of the original medieval hospitals occupying its original site.

There will be a new 1,100-bed hospital and a medical and dental school on the site of the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel. It will mean the loss of 1,000 jobs and 240 beds.

Sir Derek Boorman, the trust chairman, said: "In four years' time [from the start of building], have no doubt there will be no acute hospital on the Smithfield site. There will be many who will not like it but the writing has been on the wall for 98 years." The closure of Bart's was recommended in an independent report in 1992 and confirmed in 1994 by Virginia Bottomley, then Health Secretary.

Sir Derek said agreement had been reached with the Health Management Group,

The National Health Service needs £200 million immediately to meet its commitments to patients, the main employer organisation said yesterday. The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said waiting lists would lengthen and curbs would be imposed on non-urgent treatment this winter if more money was not made available. The association said an extra 4.5 per cent of patients were treated between April and June and emergency admissions had risen by 13 per cent in the past four years.

a joint venture between the AMEC group and the Building and Property Group, to build the new hospital and lease it back to the National Health Service on a 30-year contract under the Government's private finance initiative. He declined to disclose the cost of the deal to the NHS, which is still being negotiated. Treasury approval also has to be obtained. Sir Derek said the deal would be clinched by the spring, and building would begin later next year.

If the cost proved prohibitive, or Treasury approval was withheld beyond the

general election, Bart's could still be saved.

A study of the Royal London Hospital and Bart's by the Centre for Health Economics at York University concluded that there would be only a small difference in running costs if both hospitals were retained, although the report's findings were heavily criticised by the trust.

Sir Derek said the Royal London buildings were "clapped out" and that running a trust on five sites was inefficient; defenders of Bart's were influenced more by their hearts than their heads.

The other hospitals to close are the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, the London Chest Hospital and the Mile End branch of the Royal London. The new building will be built and run by the Health Management Group with clinical services managed by the trust.

Gerry Green, chief executive of the trust, said it was obvious that switching from five sites to one would need fewer staff. A thousand employees were expected to go over five years, including doctors and nurses. "We will be driven by the contracts we get and they are moving away from us as more patients are treated in hospitals in the suburbs. We are well-placed because we have a large local population."



Jagger and Hall are said to be planning a divorce after he was reported spending the night with a model. A friend says it may just be "a salvo across the bows"

## Jagger may bet millions that Hall is bluffing

By EMMA WILKINS AND FRANCES GIBB

MICK JAGGER was working in Los Angeles on a film called *Enigma* yesterday as he tried to unravel a far greater mystery: does Jerry Hall really want a divorce?

Although Hall has consulted Anthony Julius, divorce lawyer for Diana, Princess of Wales, Jagger doubts that she will follow through her threat to leave him after 20 years together. The 53-year-old Rolling Stone, whose personal fortune exceeds £110 million, asked his London agent to fax copies of British newspaper reports that Hall wants to end their six-year marriage.

Hall, who is the mother of three of his five children, threatened to leave him in 1992 after his much-publicised affair with Carla Bruni, an Italian model. "This is a salvo across Mick's bows," a friend of Jagger's said. "Jerry has tried threatening to walk out before, but they have always got back together."

Jagger, whose production company is adapting the film from Robert Harris's counter-espionage thriller, has been enjoying himself in Hollywood in the company of Uma Thurman, an actress, and Jana Rajlich, a Czech model. Reports that Rajlich spent the night with him in a Beverly Hills hotel have infuriated Hall, 40, who lives in Richmond, southwest London, with the couple's

children, Elizabeth, 13, James, 11, and Georgia, 4.

Jagger is believed to have asked Hall to sign a pre-nuptial agreement before their Hindu wedding in Bali, but British matrimonial lawyers agree that she would be well advised to seek a divorce in the United States.

Mark Stephens, of Stephens Innocent, Paula Yates's solicitor, said that Hall should go to Los Angeles if she wanted to "take him for every penny". "It would be surprising if somebody in her position wanted to divorce in this country," he said. "Normally we would see this happen in California, where he would have to give up 50 per cent of everything he owns. If it's in this country, she will get what is sufficient for her needs and the needs of the children."

The highest award made to a British woman was to Soraya Khashoggi, a former telephoneist, who received £500 million plus property from her billionaire ex-husband, Adnan, in a settlement in America in 1982.

When Jagger was sued for divorce in 1979 by his first wife, Bianca, he successfully contested her attempt to have the hearing held in the United States on the grounds that he was a British citizen and that the family lived in London.

Celebrity divorces, page 21

## Nolan supports Commons inquiry into sleaze claims

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LORD Nolan last night gave his full backing to the House of Commons inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair.

He was confident that Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, had all the powers necessary to conduct a full investigation. But he admitted that this was a powerful first test for the machinery his committee had proposed after its investigation into standards in public life. He would be watching developments carefully.

Lord Nolan said: "This inquiry will be different from any previously in the House because of the introduction of the independent commissioner who will carry out the initial investigation into the facts. He will do so as is now clear with all the powers which he needs."

But Lord Nolan was concerned that the public seemed

to have forgotten that the cash-for-questions affair related to a period before the rules on MPs' interests had been tightened. The allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister, and David Willetts, the Paymaster General, took place before or during October 1994, when the Nolan committee was set up.

"There seems to be an impression among the public that MPs may be still at it... But there has been an enormous change in the Commons since then, in the way Parliament has adopted a new framework for registering MPs' interests, and in the way that complaints are investigated."

By setting up Sir Gordon's inquiry, Lord Nolan said he was pleased that Parliament was showing the public it could put its house in order. His committee had considered it extremely important that the

Commons should continue to regulate its own affairs.

"I have no doubt at all that Sir Gordon and the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges and every member of the House is acutely aware that they are expected to ensure this inquiry is conducted thoroughly, impartially, openly and with the greatest vigour."

He praised the speed and unanimity of the Select Committee and commended the seniority and integrity of MPs on it. "It is not a committee that is likely to let anyone off the hook if they think wrong has been done," he said.

Lord Nolan has already said he intends to review the working of the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards next summer. If MPs and the public are unhappy with the procedures of the present inquiry this can be addressed at that stage.

### Channel 5 to launch in March

The new launch date for Channel 5 will be Good Friday, March 28, next year, three months later than expected. Retuning to avoid interference with video recorders has proved a bigger task than anticipated. The award of an extra frequency added 1.8 million homes to its reach, taking its penetration to 80 per cent of Britain.

### Tourist murder

A 13-year-old boy is to stand trial for the murder of a British tourist in Sydney. The boy allegedly stabbed Gawen Whalley, 22, from Dorset, with a butterfly knife as he was walking home from work in April.

### Village greening

A scheme to create 250 village greens and urban "breathing spaces", using £10 million from the National Lottery Millennium Fund, was launched by the Countryside Commission. Communities are being asked to apply.

### Drug arrests

Police arrested 13 people at addresses in London, Kent and Surrey in connection with the import and sale of drugs from Holland. The raids were the culmination of a 16-month operation.

### Squirrel alert

Road signs alerting motorists to red squirrels are to be erected on the Isle of Wight, one of their last havens. The island has an estimated 1,500 red squirrels. Up to 100 are killed on the roads each year.

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Unspoilt bars are being gutted and refitted, suffering 'the equivalent of ethnic cleansing'

## Beer guide calls time on destruction of historic pub interiors

By Robin Young

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THE traditional British pub is as much in need of protection as stately homes and historic churches, according to the *Good Beer Guide*.

The 1997 edition, published today by the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), carries for the first time a national inventory of pubs whose unspoilt interiors make them of outstanding importance to the national heritage. In Camra's view, they should qualify for special protection.

"Pubs do not figure highly in the minds of planning committees and regulatory bodies. Over the years build-

ings of invaluable national importance have been destroyed," Jeff Evans, the guide's editor, said.

Research for the inventory started in 1991, when Camra's pubs group, devoted to saving pub interiors from gutting and refitting, was hoping to find 500 unspoilt pubs worth listing. They have discovered 179, 72 of which are also recommended for the quality of their beers.

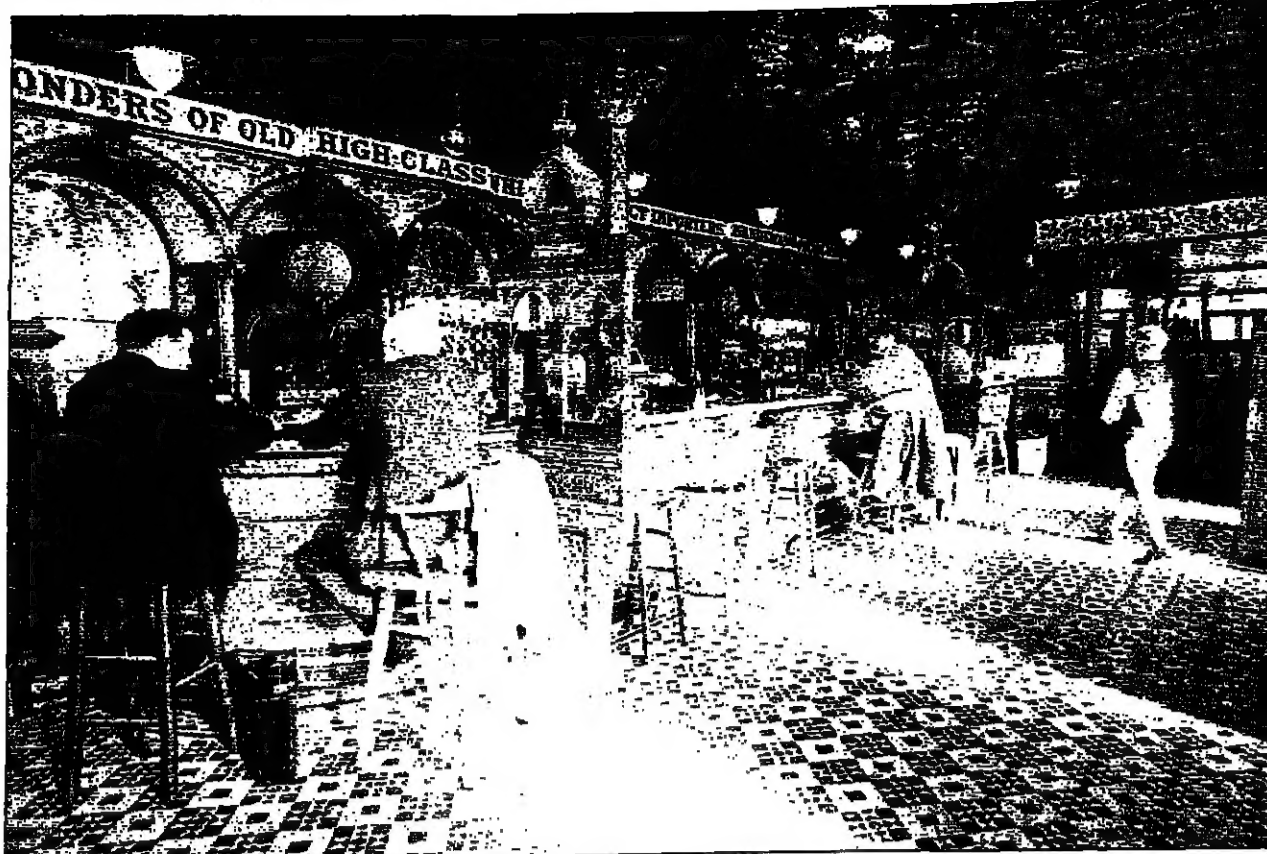
The inventory includes some of the great Victorian and Edwardian "gin palaces" of the big cities with extravagant decorative tiling, glass-

work and mahogany fittings. Among them — "veritable cathedrals among historic pubs" — are The Bartons Arms in Birmingham, The Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast, The Princess Louise in central London and The Philharmonic in Liverpool.

The list includes less obvious gems with the warning: "Plain, rural beer houses — time-warp establishments — are probably the most threatened species of our pubs." Typically consisting of one plain room, sometimes with a beer counter, such pubs are throwbacks to another age but still provide a living for often elderly licensees. "Though lacking architectural refinement (and therefore not readily qualifying for the protection of statutory listing), they are, in many ways, the most precious of our pubs because so few of them now remain."

Research for the inventory suggests that no more than a dozen or so such establishments are left. All those that have been found are included in the list, among them The Drewe Arms in Drewsteignton, Devon, and The Red Lion at Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire.

Great interwar roadhouses of the city suburbs figure



The much-admired interior of The Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast, which is owned by the National Trust

prominently, having proved prime candidates for transformation into themed eateries or nightspots. The guide says: "They have suffered the pub world's equivalent of ethnic cleansing. Against such odds the survival of original 1920s and 1930s interiors, like those at The Nursery, Stockport, and The Three Horseshoes, Boroughbridge, seems increasingly remarkable."

Camra has co-operated with national amenity societies, English Heritage and local

planning authorities in compiling its list. It is now asking for information about any intact or near-intact pub interiors that could be considered for addition.

The guide, while this year emphasising the threat to pubs, also says there are increasing pressures on beer. It cites opposition from Brussels to the guest beer law, the importation of more than a million pints of beer a day from French supermarkets and the European Commis-

sion's forthcoming decision as to whether the traditional tied tenanted pub should be allowed to continue.

The best beers being sold today are better than ever, the guide says, and 68 new breweries have started in the past 12 months, all over the British Isles. "Britain now has over 400 brewers producing more than 2,000 real ales", Mr Evans said. "The success of new brewers is clear from the *Good Beer Guide's* beers of the year." He said that com-

panies set up in the past two decades had taken the majority of the awards, and traditional family brewers the rest. "Only two national brewers get a mention, and those are for bottled beers."

Mr Evans added: "The beer scene has never been more colourful. There are more reasons than ever to visit the pub."

□ *Good Beer Guide 1997* (Camra: £10.99)

Leading article, page 23

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### PoWs halt Japan twin town plan

A plan to twin Weston-super-Mare with the Japanese port of Sakai-Minato has been abandoned after protests from former prisoners of war. The link was proposed by a local language student working in Japan. Alex Smith, 76, a former Royal Engineer captured in the Far East, said: "It's all very well saying forgive and forget, but I can't and neither can the thousands who went through what we did."

#### War crimes case

The pre-trial hearing at the Old Bailey of the prosecution of Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, of Banstead, Surrey, who is alleged to have killed three unknown Jews in Belorussia during the war, was adjourned for further inquiries.

#### Mud guard

A network of mud springs near Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire has won protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the springs, which often produce fossils, are not unique, as first thought. Others have been found near by.

#### Abduction charge

A 51-year-old man has been charged with abducting a ten-year-old girl in Paignton, Devon, on Sunday and will appear before magistrates in Torquay this morning. The girl was found on Monday on the outskirts of Exeter.

#### Thrown together

A collection of 150 airline sick bags has been put on display by Worthing Museum, West Sussex, after being donated by Jenny Davey, a hairdresser from Horsham. It is part of a display called *My Favourite Things*.

#### Wader watch

Birdwatchers gathered at dawn at Greenabella Marsh, near Hartlepool, for the first sighting in Britain of the great knot, an illn black-chested wader. It had strayed while migrating from Siberia to warmer climes.

### Regulars give brewer's name change the bird

REGULARS at the Plough in Dulwich, southeast London, have been angered by a brewer's plans to rename the pub the Goose and Granite (Robin Young writes).

There are already Goose and Granites near by in Catford and Clapham and Bass Taverns plans to refit 25 pubs to the formula by the end of next year. Regu-

lars at the Plough collected 400 signatures on a petition objecting to the company's proposal, planning permission has been granted.

Bass Taverns said: "We want to create a brand name to give customers a consistent standard and formula which they will find in every Goose and Granite they visit."

## Businessman says MI6 backed 'betrayal' of Falklands war dead

By Michael Evans

A BUSINESSMAN who claims to have been a spy for MI6 says that his controller encouraged him to help Argentine Navy chiefs to refurbish their warships in breach of an arms embargo imposed after the Falklands invasion.

Clive Russell, 64, a former Royal Navy lieutenant and Tory councillor, has admitted taking part in a covert Argentine plot to buy vital

Rolls-Royce spare parts for two flagship destroyers. However, he accuses Britain's Secret Intelligence Service of doing nothing to stop the secret rearming programme, although he passed on vital intelligence about it.

He says that his MI6 controller encouraged his actions, even though they were in breach of the embargo and a "betrayal of those who died in the Falklands war", because of the benefits of gaining intelligence

about the Argentine military. Mr Russell decided to reveal his part in what was called Operation Tigre and tonight he tells his story in a one-hour special programme for Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

Operation Tigre, allegedly masterminded by Admiral Edgardo Segura, former Argentine intelligence chief, was set up to procure spare parts worth up to \$30 million for warships that had become non-operational after the Falklands war.

Many were former Royal Navy vessels, replacement parts for which were unobtainable under the embargo.

Mr Russell says he was already working for MI6 in his capacity as a businessman in Argentina when he was approached in 1987 by Admiral Segura, who asked for help in beating the embargo to find parts for the Rolls-Royce engines in the Argentine Navy's frigates and destroyers. Mr Russell says he passed

this information to MI6 and was told that it could not help directly but would not obstruct him.

A company was set up in America, which had no embargo, specifically to copy Rolls-Royce engine parts. He says that although this did not breach the British embargo, the operation violated the spirit of it by enabling the Argentine Navy to patrol the South Atlantic with effective warships.

His role as a spy for MI6 was

exposed, he says, and he was seized in a Buenos Aires street by a group of men who beat him up. He left Argentina in a wheelchair.

He tells the programme: "I feel terribly let down by MI6. I've been keeping this to myself for a very long period of time and it was only really because of the Scott inquiry [into the arms-for-Iraq affair] that I realised that the use of businessmen in this function would appear to be a fairly common practice."

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## Sèvres Protocol found in desert archive

# Secret accord shows Eden lied over Suez

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

A SECRET document has come to light which proves that Sir Anthony Eden lied to Parliament and colluded with Israel and France to manufacture an excuse for bombing Egypt during the Suez crisis.

The document, which Eden tried to have destroyed, is signed by representatives of Britain, France and Israel who met several times at Sèvres, near Paris, in October 1956 to discuss the plan to attack Egypt. The Israeli copy of the Sèvres Protocol was discovered in an archive deep in the Negev desert by a BBC team working on a documentary to be broadcast for the fortieth anniversary of Suez. After intense negotiations with the Israeli, French and British Governments, the BBC team was allowed to obtain a copy. This has been passed to *The Times*, which is making it public for the first time.

Under the protocol — signed 40 years ago next week — Israel was to attack Egyptian positions near the Suez Canal on October 29, then Britain and France would call on the Egyptian leader, Colonel Nasser, to allow Anglo-French forces into the area to ensure a clear passage for ships.

The deal, which was agreed only after reservations from Selwyn Lloyd, then Foreign Secretary, gave Eden the moral justification for the invasion of Egypt. The Prime Minister, who resigned citing ill-health shortly after the Suez debacle, had been bent on a military confrontation with Nasser despite bitter opposition from the American administration of Dwight Eisenhower, a large section of British domestic opinion and members of Britain's senior military.

British and French copies of the Sèvres Protocol are thought to have been destroyed. The Israeli copy is signed by David Ben-Gurion, then Israeli Prime Minister, Patrick Dean, Assistant



Sir Anthony Eden, left, told MPs he did not know that David Ben-Gurion, the Israeli leader, planned to attack Egypt. The protocol proves otherwise

Under the protocol, the Government of Israel agreed to attack Egyptian positions near the Suez Canal on October 29, then Britain and France would call on the Egyptian leader, Colonel Nasser, to allow Anglo-French forces into the area to ensure a clear passage for ships.

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Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Christian Pineau, French Foreign Minister. Discovered at the Ben-Gurion archive in the Negev, it has until now been made available only to those people who were present at Sèvres.

The protocol provides further proof that Eden lied to Parliament during the future that followed the Anglo-French invasion at the end of October and beginning of November, 1956. In the House of Commons on December 20 Eden was asked, during a stormy session, whether he had had "foreknowledge" of Israeli intentions to attack

Nasser's forces. He told MPs: "I want to say this on the question of foreknowledge, and to say it quite bluntly to the House, that there was not foreknowledge that Israel would attack Egypt. There was not."

Sir Donald Logan, Assistant Private Secretary to Selwyn Lloyd, was present at the Sèvres meetings and was in the House on that day. He said from his home in central London: "I was the only person in Parliament that day who knew that this was not so." Speaking on the BBC documentary, Sir Donald said: "I thought to myself

"That does amount to a lie... you can't explain that away." Asked why he had not exposed the lie, Sir Donald told *The Times*: "It would have been disloyal to say the PM had lied. I think that, probably, the atmosphere has changed over the years, but I still think you can't run a successful Civil Service unless civil servants display loyalty and support."

Sir Donald says he believes the Israeli Government was anxious to respect Eden's wishes to keep the Sèvres document secret, at least during his lifetime. Eden, who was later created Earl of Avon, died in January 1977. His denial of foreknowledge transpired to be the last words he spoke in the Commons.

Sir Donald said the protocol, hastily typed in French on three pages, was signed on October 24. "I think champagne was produced but there was little sparkle in the atmosphere and Patrick [Dean] and I soon took our leave."

"On the following day... we were instructed by the Prime Minister to return to Paris to ask the French to destroy their copy of the document. At the Quai d'Orsay we presented the Prime Minister's request to Pineau, who received it rather coldly and questioned the need and advisability of such action. He pointed out that the Israelis had returned to Israel with their copy the previous evening."

Jeremy Bennett, producer of *The Suez Crisis*, to be broadcast on BBC1 next Tuesday, said: "The lesson of Suez is that, in the modern age, countries cannot unilaterally take military action without making sure they have a great degree of international support, particularly from the military superpowers."

"These lessons had been learnt by the time of Britain's campaign in the Falklands and in the war of the allied nations against Iraq in the Gulf."



The future Edward VIII, aged 16, in a Canadian Blackfoot chief's regalia in 1910

## Village teachers hid album of rare royal photographs

By JOANNA BALE

AN ALBUM of historic royal photographs found hidden at the back of a school cupboard was donated to the nation yesterday. The 100 black and white pictures feature members of the Royal Family meeting officers on the Western Front in the First World War and visiting Victoria, British Columbia, from the 1890s to the 1930s.

They were taken by a Canadian photographer, Howard Chapman, and presented to Bircham Primary

School, Great Bircham, Norfolk, by Queen Mary in September 1945. One hand-coloured photograph shows the future Edward VIII dressed as a chief of the Blackfoot tribe when he was a teenage Prince of Wales.

The school, which has 29 pupils, yesterday presented the album to the Royal Commonwealth Society photographic collection at Cambridge University library. The original prints will be restored and put in archives but copies have been taken by the school. The collection also

records the suffering of Canadian soldiers in the First World War, including pictures of dead troops and mutilated horses lying in the mud of Flanders.

The school is five miles from Sandringham House and used to teach estate workers' children. The black leather album is believed to have been put at the back of the cabinet after teachers decided some of the war pictures were too disturbing for children. Three years ago it was discovered by Ann Brown, a former acting head.

## Tube fares to rise 4% in new year

Tube fares are to rise by an overall 4 per cent from January 5. London Transport said there would be no increase in most single bus fares, while single fares on the Underground would either be unchanged or rise by 10p.

Some single fares would go up from 90p to £1; some £1.10 fares to £1.20; some child fares from 50p to 60p. London Transport hopes the rises will raise an extra £44 million.

## Jet committal

James Mullahy, 37, of Florida, was committed for trial next month on charges of drunkenness on a transatlantic flight and endangering the safety of the aircraft. He was remanded in custody and is due to appear in court again today.

## 1,000th heart

Payworth Hospital, Cambridge, has carried out its 1,000th heart transplant. Martin Joyce, 58, of Sawbridge-worth, Hertfordshire, received his new heart on September 25. Heart swaps began at the hospital 17 years ago.

## Moth rescued

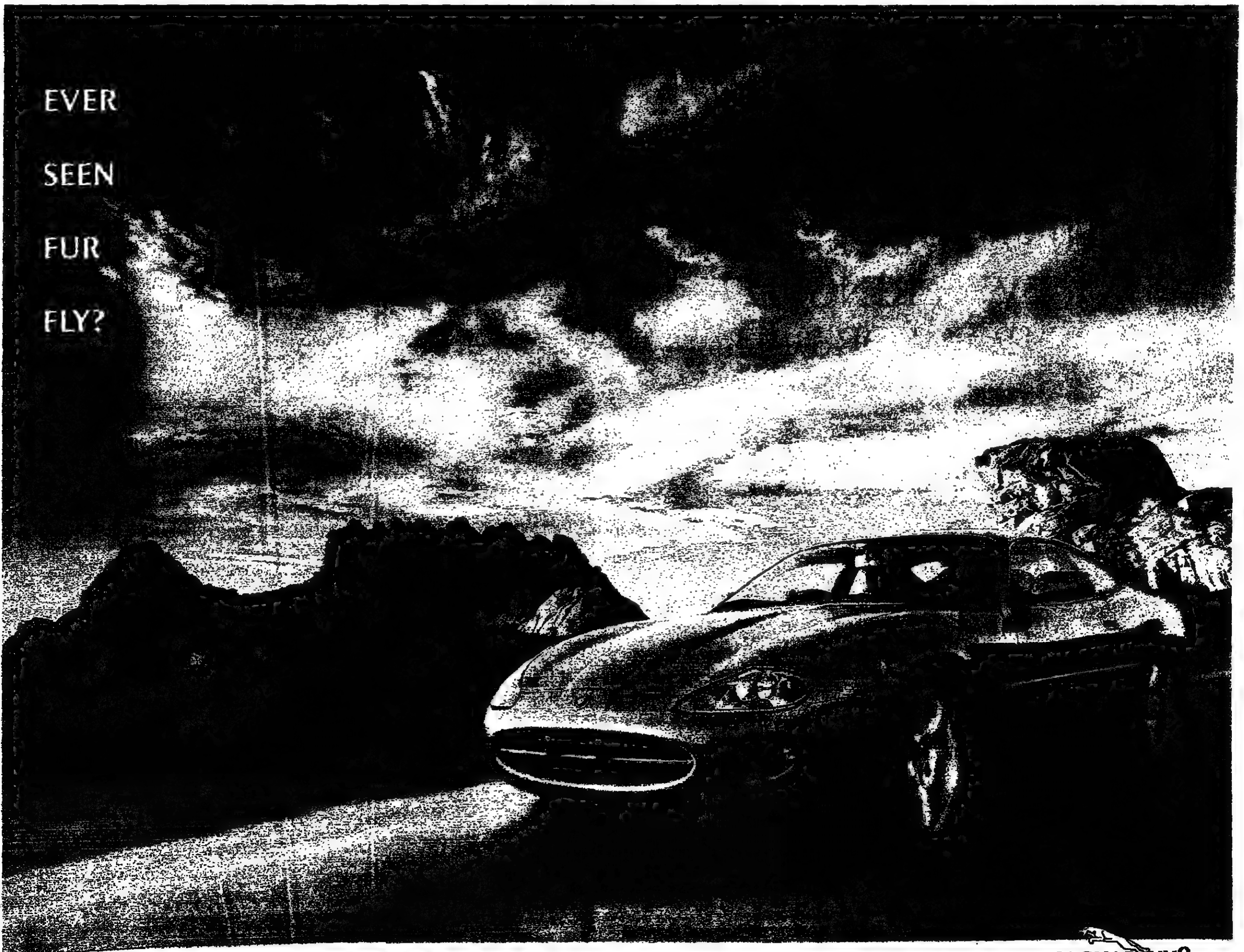
One of the rarest species of moth has been saved after a six-year conservation programme. Three reddish buff moths were found at their only known habitat in 1987 but the moth now breeds on the Isle of Wight and in Hampshire.

## Shock treatment

Police in the City of London have become the first force in the country to be issued with defibrillators to save heart attack victims. The equipment, which electrically "kick-starts" a heart, will be carried in patrol cars.

## Pilot's memento

The cigarette lighter carried by Reg Lucas, who died in 1941 when his Halifax bomber crashed near Aldershot after being hit by "friendly" fire, has been found and returned to his brother, Ron Lucas, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.



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# Clinton cashes in as bank chief delivers 'feelgood factor'



Greenspan: has focused on curbing inflation

IF PRESIDENT CLINTON is re-elected on November 5, as seems ever more likely, he can thank the "feelgood factor". At rallies across the country, he is claiming all the credit for America's current boom. But many argue that he has been lucky. As Robert Samuelson, the influential Washington-based columnist, puts it: "The great fiction of this election is that the President is responsible for the economy."

Tony Blair's economic schemes closely resemble the Democrats' ambitious 1992 agenda. The Labour leader will be helped, if he becomes Prime Minister, by the fact that Britain is enjoying an upswing whose full effects have not yet been felt, much like America when Mr Clinton gained power. In words which should be

Critics of the President, who is riding high on America's economic upturn, say the great fiction of the election is that he is responsible for the recovery, Bronwen Maddox in Washington writes

music to Mr Blair's ears. Paul Krugman, a leading American economist, argues: "The way to be a two-term President is to ride into office on a recession that started under your predecessor, and to be re-elected on the strength of the recovery."

Four years ago, when much of America was in the doldrums, Mr Clinton campaigned on the slogan "It's the economy, stupid". Back on the campaign trail, he hammers away now at statistics showing

that many "ordinary people" are now better off. He is not lying. America has for the moment achieved the economic nirvana of moderate, steady growth with low inflation. Unemployment is at a six-year low and ten million jobs have been created since 1992. Low interest rates have encouraged companies to invest more and have eased the burden on mortgage payers.

According to *The Washington Post* this week, the experience of

poorer people in America is much less rosy than the overall picture. "The new economy has showered its favours disproportionately on workers with more education and experience."

In defending President Clinton's record, his supporters emphasise that the government deficit budget has fallen by 60 per cent. The deficit — the gap between the Government's annual income and spending — has a prominence in American politics which is mystifying to Europeans.

In the United States, the real significance of the deficit is symbolic, a powerful sign about whether the Government is out of control. Many Americans appear to feel as Margaret Thatcher did, that if households and shopkeepers can

balance their budgets, so should governments. On this symbolic level, Mr Clinton can claim full marks. But many argue that it is Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Bank chairman, who should be given real credit for current confidence. He has focused on beating inflation, even when that meant brief rises in interest rates. Peter Domenici, the Senate budget chairman who is close to Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, says that one of Mr Clinton's most successful actions has been to reappoint Mr Greenspan for a third term.

Ironically, the President has two policies — education and trade — which may have a profound effect on growth, but the impact will be invisible for decades and they rank

well below the economy in his speeches. Mr Clinton makes too much of the Internet's ability to reach slum children, but his plan to give tax credits for school fees brings applause. Trade policy, hardly mentioned in the campaign, may prove even more important. Despite protectionists in both parties, he pushed through the North American Free Trade Agreement and the global General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Those pacts may eventually earn him a place in the history books: they stand head and shoulders above most achievements of his first term. But if Americans want to anoint someone as their economic champion on the basis of the past four years, they might do better to look to Mr Greenspan.

## Hoffa son stakes claim to lead father's union

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

HE IS a short, powerful man with piercing, pale blue eyes and built like a refrigerator. Midway through our interview he leans towards me and suggests, menacingly: "If you want to do a correct story on this election, you will go with what I tell you."

One would normally ignore such a warning, but this is Jimmy Hoffa, son of the legend who with Mafia help built the Teamsters into the world's most powerful but infamous union before vanishing 31 years ago. I am disinclined to argue: we are alone in the anteroom of a hall in industrial Cleveland, and outside the door 300 hefty supporters have gathered to greet him.

The election is for the Teamsters' presidency, and Mr Hoffa is battling to unseat Ron Carey, the incumbent, in a contest so vicious that the race for America's presidency looks positively cuddly.

Mr Hoffa claims Mr Carey's presidency has been a disaster that has bankrupted his father's union, betrayed its members and left it impotent. He calls him the witting "tool" of a Government bent on keeping the Teamsters weak. He vows to return the union to its glory days when his father boasted he could "shut down everything that moves" and Robert Kennedy called him "the most powerful man in the country next to the President".



Hoffa Sr: vanished in July 1975

Mr Carey insists he is reversing the union's long decline. His campaign has published a 33-page booklet documenting Mr Hoffa's alleged ties to mobsters, and calls "Junior" the "front man" for a corrupt old guard fighting desperately to regain power before Mr Carey purges them.

Mr Hoffa is a 55-year-old labour lawyer who never held a genuine blue-collar job and had to be given a sinecure by a Detroit Teamsters' local (branch) to be eligible to run. He has little to offer save a potent name, and even then his memory is highly selective.

He boasts of how his father built the Teamsters into a

force of 2.2 million members, tripled their wages, gave them middle-class status and was "one of the great labour leaders of the century". The 1992 movie *Hoffa*, starring Jack Nicholson, "didn't portray his warmth and commitment to working people", he said.

But beyond admitting that "none of us are saints" he will not discuss how his father allied himself with the Mafia, let it use the union's vast pension funds to build Las Vegas casinos, and allowed mobsters to turn locals into personal fiefdoms. In 1957 the Teamsters were expelled from the labour movement.

This autumn's ugly confrontation is the result of that criminality. In 1967 Hoffa went from the Teamsters' Capitol Hill headquarters — the "Marble Palace" — to jail. After four years President Nixon pardoned him.

When he tried to regain the presidency from his hand-picked Mafia-backed successor, he was lured to a meeting outside a Detroit restaurant on July 30, 1975, and disappeared. His son says he was murdered by "people with links to organised crime" because "they didn't want my dad coming back".

Hoffa vanished but the corruption persisted. Another president followed him to prison. A third died before being convicted. Finally, in

1989 the union averted a federal racketeering suit by agreeing to hold its first free leadership election and let independent investigators root out corruption.

Mr Carey, a former New York van driver, won that poll. He has sold the union's two jets and stretch limousines, removed 200 corrupt officials, cracked down on those collecting multiple salaries, and put 65 of the Teamsters' 570 locals into "trusteeship" for offences ranging from extortion to Mafia infiltration. One was the Chicago empire William Hogan, Mr Hoffa's running-mate, inherited from his father and used to steer lucrative contracts to his family. "I'm living proof that nepotism works," Mr Hogan once boasted.

At the Cleveland rally Mr Hoffa promised to restore the locals' autonomy, end government interference and "crusade to take back this great union". He pumped the air with his fist as the crowd chanted: "Hoffa! Hoffa!" People handed him \$100 notes. It seemed impressive until one spoke to the supporters individually. Some were ordinary members drawn by the Hoffa name. The great majority turned out to be local Teamster officials — apparitions from the union's Jurassic wing desperate to preserve their fat livings.



Jimmy Hoffa Jr: "If you want to do a correct story, you will go with what I tell you"

## Touch of glitter for mourners

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN undertaker is launching a line of fashion jewellery for the bereaved. It is intended to help those who have been left behind to "let go" of the dead departed.

The range of brooches and necklaces, including broken-heart designs and teardrops, will be unveiled at next week's National Funeral Directors' convention in Ohio. "Cremation jewellery" is the official term, but "mourner chic" might also do.

The pieces, which range in price from \$1,900 to \$10,000 (£1,200 to £6,300), have been created by Lester Lampert, a gem expert who has designed jewellery for such luminaries as television's Barbara Walters and the agony aunt Ann Landers. Mr Lampert also designed the official paperweight that marked the Pope's visit to Chicago.

In collaboration with Terry Dieterle, an Illinois undertaker, he has assembled baubles for grieving families. The items are hollowed out and filled with some of the dead person's ashes or perhaps a lock of hair taken from the corpse — a practice not unknown in Victorian England.

The Dieterle/Lampert collection, with gems or gold, can be placed in show boxes made of cherrywood that can be placed on the mantelpiece as a conversational aid during post-funeral silences.

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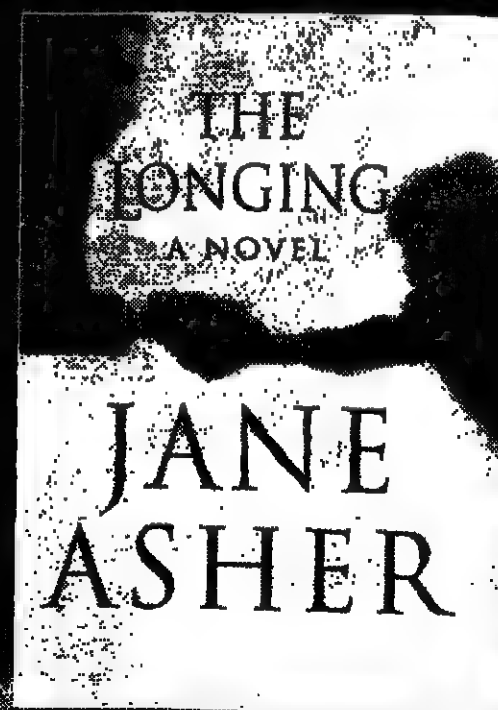
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FROM RICHARD BEENTON  
IN MOSCOW

However bad life is in the penal camp, it is bound to be an improvement on Miss Henderson's current conditions in Moscow's Butyrka remand prison, where she has had to share a cell with 70 women. Hygiene is very poor and disease is rife.

**FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS**

**Metro and bus services in Paris predict only marginal disruption, but suburban**

**FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS**

**Metro and bus services in Paris predict only marginal disruption, but suburban**

## eatn Paris jam chaos

**Jacques Santer, left, and Yves-Thibault de Silguy announce the proposals yesterday for ensuring budget stability under a single currency.**

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**FROM LEYLA LINTON**

Thousands of transport workers, car workers and firefighters have all taken part in strike action and demonstrations in the past two days. About a dozen protesters have vowed to stay outside Brussels' Palais de Justice until Sunday, when more than 50,000 people wearing white will march through the city to remember six kidnapped girls, four of whom were murdered. Mr Doutroux has been accused of the crimes.

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This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.



# China vows to stop Hong Kong press criticising leaders

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

QIAN QICHEN, the Chinese Foreign Minister, raised the political temperature in Hong Kong yesterday by saying that after the transfer of sovereignty next year, the territory's annual demonstrations against the Tiananmen Square massacre will be illegal and the press will not be allowed to criticise China's leaders.

In an interview with senior journalists of *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, Mr Qian said that dissidents must obey the law and cannot "hold political activities which directly interfere in the affairs of the mainland of China". Asked if that prohibition specifically included the Tiananmen memorial demonstrations that take place in Hong Kong each year, the Foreign Minister said: "That kind of thing."

As for the media, Mr Qian said they would be banned from "putting forward personal attacks on the Chinese leaders. That would not live up to the morality of the

occupation and is not compatible with personal moral ethics as well." Asked where these issues were stated in the law, Mr Qian said: "There is no stipulation on whether there can be attacks or not but I do not believe laws will make such stipulations."

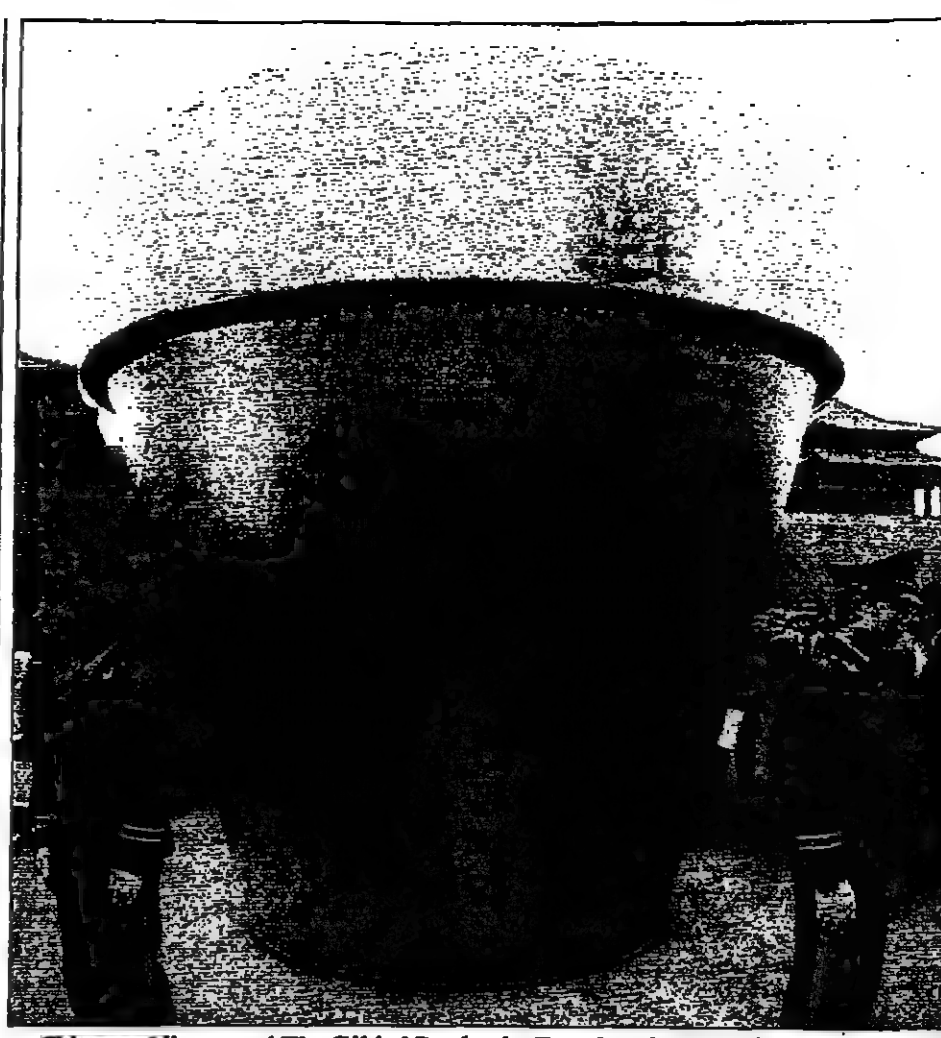
Asked if people would be jailed for anti-Tiananmen protests or personal attacks on leaders, Mr Qian replied that, as with those who actually demonstrated in the square in 1989, "they cannot possibly all live in jail for the jail is not big enough". A Government House spokesman said last night: "Beng goes 'One country, two systems' and bang goes the rule of law."

The Foreign Minister was far more conciliatory on the conflict with Japan over islands in the East China Sea. The tiny uninhabited atolls, called Diaoyu by the Chinese and Senkaku by the Japanese, are under Japanese rule and have been the focus of demon-

strations in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau. Although he said the islands belonged to China, Mr Qian added: "The issue should be resolved through diplomatic negotiations. If conditions are not ripe, it can be solved later." This has been the Chinese position for two decades and is regarded as weak-kneed in Hong Kong and in Taiwan.

He took a similarly long view of United States bases in Asia. China generally preferred countries to keep their troops at home, Mr Qian said, but added that "the situation left over from history exists" and the treaty under which America protects Japan "is absolutely understandable".

Preparing the way: Winston Lord, the US State Department's senior East Asian specialist, was in Peking yesterday for talks with Chinese officials in preparation for the visit next month of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.



Chinese soldiers guard *The Gilded Pot*, by the French artist Jean-Pierre Raynaud, which is on display in Peking's Forbidden City, near the Gate of Supreme Harmony

## Warning of Golan offensive by Syria

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER AND TOM RHODES

NEW fears of a clash between Israel and Syria arose yesterday after a top Israeli intelligence officer gave a warning in the Knesset that Syria was preparing for a possible military attack if it concludes that there is no peaceful way to regain the Golan Heights, lost in the 1967 war.

The officer spoke as state-controlled Damascus Radio broadcast its most belligerent commentary in recent weeks, accusing Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, of acting against peace and massing more troops on occupied land in southern Lebanon and the Golan.

At the same time, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, angrily rejected the latest Israeli plan for redeployment in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. On a visit to Cairo, Mr Arafat said of the plan to divide the city and allow Israeli troops the right of hot pursuit into Palestinian areas: "It is a dangerous operation. It shows Israel's aggressive intentions in Hebron."

Israel television reported that Brigadier-General Amos Gilad, head of research in military intelligence, told the Knesset defence committee: "The Syrians are talking about a military option, are preparing for it and it will be implemented in accordance with developments."

Although the session took place behind closed doors, identical accounts of the warning appeared in the press. *Haaretz* quoted the general as saying that the aim of military action — for which training was already under way — would be to try to impose a diplomatic solution on Israel.

The White House reacted with scepticism last night to the general's claims, but said the response of the United States to any Syrian attack would be very strong.

Analysts in America are convinced that President Assad, who often sends conflicting signals about his intentions, is too wary of defeat by Israeli forces to risk conflict over the Golan.

A senior official at the National Security Council said: "We are watching the situation very closely."

## Japan in range of missile

Tokyo: North Korea is preparing to test a medium-range missile with the potential to threaten Japan, heightening tensions here (Robert Whyman writes). Japan's Self-Defence Agency said yesterday that North Korean observation ships were in position in the expected impact area in the Sea of Japan. A US reconnaissance satellite confirmed that North Korea had moved the launch platform of its Rodong-1 missile, which has a range of 600 miles, out of its base in the east. So far, Pyongyang has given no warning of an imminent test. Regional tensions have been high after North Korean commandos landed in South Korea last month.

## Kasparov check

Jerusalem: Natan Sharansky, the Israeli Trade Minister and a former Soviet dissident, was victorious in one of a series of simultaneous matches played here by the grandmaster, Garry Kasparov. (Reuters)

## Croatia joins up

Strasbourg: The Council of Europe has decided to admit Croatia as its fortieth member after a delay of six months caused by human rights concerns in the former Yugoslav republic. (Reuters)

## Kidnap arrests

Frankfurt: Police searching for Jakob Fiszmann, the kidnapped German millionaire, have arrested five people and recovered a DM4 million (£1.6 million) ransom, but did not find the captive. (AP)

## Nigerians freed

Lagos: Three opposition leaders jailed on suspicion of murdering the wife of Chief Moshood Abiola, the self-declared president of Nigeria who is imprisoned, have been freed after four months. (AFP)

## Mosquito order

Delhi: Indian ministers told Delhi officials to prosecute home owners who fail to eradicate mosquitoes, which have caused a dengue fever outbreak in which more than 150 people have died. (Reuters)

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## Couch potatoes inflate US figures on obesity

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MORE than half of the population of the United States is now officially fat, according to the latest findings. It is the first time that the portly have numerically outweighed the lean in America.

A meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity heard that under a new method of gauging fitness, 59 per cent of American men and 49 per cent of women fall into the fat category. Two age groups were noticeably plump: the over 50s and children. In the late 1970s, only a quarter of the country's adult population was officially regarded as being overweight.

Katherine Flegal, a researcher with the National Centre for Health Statistics, said that the prevalence of television remote controls may have helped to create the problem. Viewers no longer

even have to rise from their armchairs to change channel. She added that, with people afraid of crime, they sometimes decide against leaving the home to exercise.

The figures suggest that the endless proclamations on American television about diets and exercise are no match for the big helpings traditionally served by the country's restaurants and the fatty content of their fare.

Albert Stunkard, a scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, blamed "just eating too much", while Tim Byers, of the University of Colorado, said: "It has been clear for years that Americans are getting fatter but that process is accelerating. That is troubling." Ms Flegal reported that cholesterol levels and blood pressure were being kept in check, but diabetes appeared to be on the rise.

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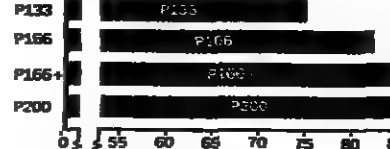
PC Home Magazine



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## Ousted Government warns Taliban forces to abandon Kabul or face bloodbath

# Thousands flee as battle for Afghan capital sharpens

THOUSANDS are fleeing the battle for control of Kabul, raging 12 miles north of the Afghan capital at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountains, despite peace talks between the city's Taliban rulers and a northern warlord.

The war intensified yesterday in both words and weapons. The ousted Government warned Taliban to quit the city or face a bloodbath: Taliban replied by sending its decrepit Russian warplanes on bombing runs.

The immediate objective of government forces is the seizure of Bagram military airbase, near the heavily fortified Panjshir Valley where General Ahmed Shah Masood, their military commander, has his headquarters. He said that Taliban, which captured Kabul three weeks ago, was being offered a last chance for peace. Its troops should get out or they would be pushed out.

Villages around Bagram are emptying as people escape intense close-quarters fighting. The fall of the airbase would enable General Masood to bring his warplanes, believed to be parked in Kunduz province in the far north, close to the battle-ground. General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord who is a military ally,



Christopher Thomas reports from Kabul as the Islamic forces reply to an ultimatum by sending in their warplanes

could then also bring fighter planes to Kabul's doorstep if he joins the attack.

General Dostum's forces are still not taking part in the fighting, but there is joint discussion of strategy and a sharing of resources. He has greater firepower than General Masood, who had to leave much of his hardware behind when he abandoned Kabul on September 27, and is capable of intense bombardment of the city, three fifths of which is estimated to have been destroyed in earlier battles.

General Dostum held peace talks yesterday with Mullah Muhammad Ghous, Taliban's acting Foreign Minister, Afghan sources said. They said the meeting at Qala-i-Jangi fort outside Mazar-e Sharif, near the Uzbek border, was also attended by Naserullah Babur, the Pakistani Interior Minister. The talks are due to continue today.

Despite that, General Masood appears to want to dominate the offensive. It still

rankles with him that when he rode triumphantly into Kabul in April 1992 after the fall of the Communist Government he did so on a Dostum tank. His forces fanned out through the city in a meticulously planned operation in which the police stations were first disarmed, followed by the establishment of roadblocks at strategic points. It was over in hours and without heavy shelling. He seems to want to repeat that slick operation.

Taliban's planes have bombed the town of Jabul-e-Siraj where General Masood has set up his forward base. There were few casualties but property was damaged. Earlier this week the small town of Charikar, to the south, was also bombed. The sound of aircraft sends everybody dashing for cover: low clouds moved across the area yesterday afternoon, bringing an opportunity for people to flee in safety.

Shirmohamed Stanekzai, a minister in Taliban's Foreign Ministry, warned Russia against aiding General Masood last night. He said that Russia, which is worried by Islamic extremism in the region, had threatened to intervene if Taliban forces reached the border of the former Soviet republics. "If they interfere in our affairs, we are ready to create problems for them by interfering in theirs," he said.

Mullah Muhammad Mutaqi, the Taliban Culture and Information Minister, said that Kabul had been reinforced with 5,000 additional soldiers brought from the



A girl brings food for her family at an Afghan refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan

south, though there was no obvious evidence of that on the city's streets yesterday. He spurned an offer by General Dostum for Kabul to be controlled jointly by all sides. The "killers" of the old Government would not be allowed to return.

"We will cleanse the rest of the country of the enemies of Afghanistan," he said. Afghanistan would be purified. Reports that young men were

being rounded up and forcibly recruited into the Taliban army amounted to propaganda spread by the ousted Government. Taliban had come to save the people, not oppress them, he said.

This is not a sentiment widely shared by the citizens of Kabul, where repression is intense and intensifying. There is fear of renewed fighting in the capital and those with the resources —

who are few — are getting out. Many families were boarding buses at the bus station yesterday for the long journey to the Khyber Pass and the bleak safety of Pakistan.

Pakistan is desperate to rid itself of Afghan refugees, who have contributed significantly to the country's culture of violence and destabilised its North West Frontier Province, a principal centre of the international drugs trade.

## Lone woman runs risk of militia's vengeance to care for 800 orphans

By Christopher Thomas

THE 800 children of Kabul orphanage are hidden victims of Taliban's ban on women working. There is nobody to care for them, save for an elderly cook, a few male minders and one brave woman who turns up secretly every day.

She has been beaten once by Taliban soldiers for being on the street without good reason — women are allowed out only for shopping — but she continues to make her way to the squalid, windowless institution each day. "The children need a little love," she says. She hurries home at dusk, hoping a Taliban patrol will not spot her.

The orphanage has not a single toy, not one game, no heating or lighting, and precious little food. The children have tea and dry bread for breakfast. For lunch and dinner, there is peas, beans and rice. There is no money for meat: the institution has faced a financial crisis since Taliban captured Kabul last month.

It is financed partly by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) but much of the money is reportedly not getting through. There are inmates as young as six months and as old as 20. Some were left by mothers too poor to feed them.

The kitchen is a filthy, soot-covered dungeon with openings for smoke to escape. Giant iron cauldrons are heated by wooden fires: the cook, who cuffs children smoking an extra handful, stirs the pots with a shovel. It is pure *Oliver Twist*. Children sit on benches in silence at ranks of bare tables. The lone woman fusses around — a heroine who could be flogged or lose a limb for this kindness.

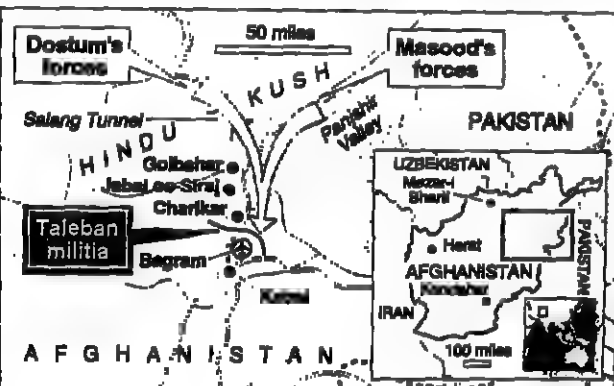
She worked at the orphan-

age before Taliban came, when there were 30 women teachers. "How can we abandon these children? They have nothing left. I can give them a little affection. It is not enough but it is all I have." She no longer gets paid and is sinking into poverty. She is a widow with children of her own: her previous salary of 90,000 afghanis (£4) a month enabled her to survive.

Another widow arrived in full *burqa* to see the five children she recently abandoned. She threw off her veil contemptuously: until Taliban came she never wore one. Across the wall, in a large room lined with coats, was written "We trust in God." A dozen babies cried in their coats or crawled around, unattended.

There are 290,000 children in Kabul aged under five, according to Action Contre La Faim, which conducted a survey of child nutrition. One third of all children are sick: half are moderately or severely stunted. Half have no father. Before the Islamic fighters arrived, it was estimated that Kabul had 24,000 acutely malnourished children. Because their mothers are not allowed to work, the figure must now be substantially higher.

Women have died during childbirth in Kabul since Taliban came because they were too afraid to go to hospital. Doubtless some children have died for the same reason. It is estimated that one child in six dies in Kabul before the age of five — one of the world's highest mortality rates. There are countless child beggars in the capital. Mothers, fully veiled, sit in the street with babies in their laps, begging for food, victims of Taliban's ideology.



Friday, 18 October  
at 10:00 pm (British time)

New  
numbering  
plan  
in  
France



## How to call France from the United Kingdom

On 18 October 1996 at 10:00 pm British time, France will switch to a new telephone numbering plan. These changes anticipate for the ever increasing volume of telecommunications traffic in France (new services, fax, mobile phones, etc.). This new plan provides a reserve of numbers for several decades to come and marks a further step

towards harmonization with European directives and international recommendations. This New Telephone Numbering Plan applies to all numbers you call in France. To call a number in France from the United Kingdom, after 00 simply dial the country code 33, followed by a 9-digit number.

## 9 digits to call all numbers

To call the "provinces" (outside Paris and the Paris region)

Depending on the location, dial 2, 3, 4 or 5 in front of the current number, which remains the same.

The digits to be added are shown on the area code map and in the area code table.

For example: 00 33 20 0000 becomes 00 33 20 0000

Add	To the current number beginning with:	Add	To the current number beginning with:	Add	To the current number beginning with:
3	20	2	48	4	76
3	21	5	49	4	77
3	22	4	50	4	78
3	23	2	51	4	79
3	24	5	52	3	80
3	25	2	53	3	81
3	26	5	54	3	82
3	27	5	55	3	83
3	28	5	56	3	84
3	29	5	57	3	85
2	30	5	58	3	86
2	31	5	59	3	87
2	32	3	60	3	88
2	33	5	61	3	89
3	34	5	62	3	90
2	35	5	63	4	91
2	36	5	64	4	92
2	37	4	65	4	93
2	38	4	66	4	94
2	39	4	67	4	95
2	40	4	68	4	96
2	41	4	69	2	97
4	42	4	70	2	98
2	43	4	71	2	99
3	44	4	72		
5	45	4	73		
5	46	4	74		
2	47	4	75		

To call Paris and the Paris region

There are no changes. You will continue to dial the 9-digit number which begins with 1.

For example: 00 33 1 00000000

To call mobile numbers

To call a mobile phone, dial 6 before the current 8-digit number, which remains the same.

For example: 00 33 01 00000000 becomes 00 33 6 01 00000000

Add	To the current number beginning with:	Add	To the current number beginning with:
6	01	6	07
6	02	6	08
6	03	6	09
6	06		

Remember...

Don't forget to update your personal directory. If necessary, modify all French numbers (including speed dialing) stored in your equipment: telephones, fax machines, etc.

How to phone when you are in France

For all calls within France, dial 0 before the 9-digit number. The domestic long distance access code, 16, will no longer be used.

To call another country from France, dial 00 (instead of 19).



## Security tightens at Vienna Christie's as wartime loot goes under the hammer

## Austria confronted by Nazi past in sale of Jewish treasures

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

THE Vienna outlet of Christie's will be under heavy guard from next week as the British auction house prepares for one of its most sensitive sales: a hoard of art stolen from Austrian Jews by the Nazis.

In the age of letterbomb politics — and the seemingly unstoppable rise of the far right — the auction is regarded as a potential target of racists in a country struggling to come to terms with its past.

"Austria must not be allowed to become [like] Switzerland," Hans Rauscher, a Vienna commentator, says, welcoming the Christie's sale. While Switzerland is being confronted with its wartime amorality of taking over Nazi gold and Nazi bank accounts and discouraging the search for their Jewish owners, Austria is at last coming clean about its wartime booty.

The sale of the 7,000 pieces, stored in the Carthusian monastery of Mauerbach outside Vienna, is as much a political event as an artistic celebra-

tion. But not all members of the Jewish community, helping to organise the sale, are satisfied that all efforts have been exhausted in trying to trace the owners of the hoard.

"They gave me five minutes to get my coat and my handbag," a Jewish woman, arrested in her Vienna flat in 1939, wrote in a letter from New Zealand in 1965. In the corridor, she had turned around and stared at the painting that she and her father adored: it was a work by Friedrich Gauermann. What was started by her search for the painting will culminate on October 26 with the Christie's auction.

That letter was addressed to Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter and head of the Vienna-based Jewish Documentation Centre. "Somebody would like to buy the painting and the money would really help," she wrote. "I'm growing old and I've got bills to pay."

The Nazis looted paintings, sculptures and silver pieces

from Jewish and non-Jewish homes. The Allies discovered the caches and ordered Austria to trace the owners. Almost 10,000 artworks were returned. But Austrian enthusiasm was lukewarm.

The 1935 Treaty of Vienna, establishing the modern Austrian state, obliged it to continue with the search: this was a difficult task since Jewish survivors were dispersed and Austria did not invest a great deal of energy in it. After half-hearted attempts to publicise the hoard, bits of it were declared ownerless and sold off. The rest was stashed in Mauerbach or loaned to Austrian museums and galleries.

Herr Wiesenthal insisted that detailed lists of the works be distributed worldwide through Austrian embassies. The list was compiled and published in Austria but few claimants heard about it. Even when a law was passed in 1969, giving owners more time to lodge claims, the authorities seemed to find reasons for not



Paintings on sale include *Portrait of a Lady in Red Bonnet*, by Hans Makart, admired by Hitler, and *In the Schtett*, by Ludwig Knaus



handing over the artworks. The parallel with the churlish Swiss banks, which discouraged Holocaust survivors from discovering their old accounts, was strong. Between 1969 and 1972 thousands of applications were received but only 71 were settled. A second law, passed last year, accelerated matters a little, but sur-

vivors of the Holocaust were already beginning to die. "This story will not figure on our role of honour," said Judge Reimar Gradischnik, who has successfully restored 400 pieces. The Mauerbach collection includes mainly 19th-century German and Austrian painters such as Rudolf von Alt. Works of some

of Hitler's favourite painters, such as Hans Makart, are included. Although the money raised will be mainly distributed to Jewish charities, there is a nagging suspicion among Jews that Austria has only taken a small step towards admitting its role in the Holocaust. For decades, Austrian officials shrugged off inquiries

about the Mauerbach collection by saying much of it was worthless kitsch. This was a deception since Austrian museums were anxious to get their hands on many works, but the claim also misses the point. "The people I have seen have been in search of memories, not fortunes," Judge Gradischnik said. One

woman showed him death certificates of 14 relatives to prove her identity. "After you have seen that, do you then press her as to whether the background colour of a claimed oil painting is light blue or light green?"

William Rees-Mogg, page 22  
Books, page 41



Priebke: freed by tribunal after admitting massacre

## Italy embraces Priebke retrial as chance to learn from war

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE decision to retry Erich Priebke, 83, a former SS officer, for a massacre was welcomed yesterday as an opportunity for Italy to face its wartime ghosts.

"The past has come back to haunt us," said *La Stampa*. "We expect a just verdict which will, once and for all, put an end to this terrible chapter in our recent history." It added that the three-man military tribunal that tried Priebke for war crimes, in proceedings often bordering on farce, had made a fundamental error when it ordered him freed in August. But

the chairman of the tribunal, Judge Agostino Quistelli, defended the verdict, which found Priebke guilty of the massacre in March 1944 of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine caves on the Appian Way just outside Rome, but set him free because of "mitigating circumstances". There was a public outcry, and Priebke was immediately rearrested because of a request by Bonn for his extradition for trial in Germany. He is still in jail in Rome.

Judge Quistelli made clear that the "mitigating circumstances" had included Priebke's age. "I tried an old man who represents no danger to society and who

committed a crime over half a century ago," he said. Outraged relatives of the massacre victims accused the judge of being biased in favour of Priebke. A lower court rejected this, but this week the Supreme Court overruled the lower court decision and ordered a retrial. It is expected within three months.

Judge Bruno Rocchi, who also sat on the tribunal, said "only a madman" would agree to preside over the retrial. "They are doing all they can to ensure Priebke dies in jail," he said.

Carlo Taormina, a defence lawyer, said that the Supreme Court had dispensed "political justice",

and Priebke should be transferred to house arrest.

Tullia Zevi, leader of the Jewish community in Rome, said too many Italians wanted to sweep the Fascist past and Mussolini's alliance with Hitler under the carpet. "This is an important history lesson for Italy, and especially for the young, at a time when the far right is again on the march in Europe," she said.

*Il Messaggero* said the retrial "must be used by all of us, including the media and the schools, to tell the truth about the Second World War, its causes and bloody dramas, the gratuitous ferocity of the Fascists against the

weak and defenceless, and the brave resistance to the dictators by the democracies, led by the British. It would be a bad thing for Italian democracy if the memory of those terrible years disappeared."

The problem of facing the past has also been raised by new evidence from Klaus Voigt, a German historian, showing that Mussolini was told about the systematic elimination of the Jews by the Nazis in the summer of 1942. Some Italian historians maintain that Il Duce did not know about the Holocaust until much later in the war. *La Repubblica* said Herr Voigt had documents proving Mussolini was told the truth at an

early stage by Italian commanders in Eastern Europe and by the German Ambassador in Rome.

The victims of the Ardeatine caves massacre — a reprisal for an Italian partisan ambush on a German patrol — included Communist partisans and Italian Jews taken from the Rome ghetto. Priebke, who was extradited from Argentina last year, admitted killing two of the victims and checking the names of others on a Gestapo list as they got off the lorries.

His defence was that he was obeying Gestapo orders and would have been shot himself if he had disobeyed.

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# An ex-sailor's remedy for a wilting libido

**K** eith Jones, at 42, still looks a traditional Dartmouth educated Naval officer. He looks spruce and clean cut and speaks with a serviceman's precision. He had expected to spend a lifetime in the Royal Navy, but soon realised that defence cuts and a shrinking fleet meant that his career prospects were limited and that he would fare better in civilian life.

As Keith has had an engineering training, he joined an engineering firm and became an international expert on power stations. This expertise was in demand and before he was 40, he was able to move to a comparatively leisurely existence in Monte Carlo.

But Keith is not a man to be inactive and once in Monte Carlo, looked for a way to use his engineering and design skills. While in the Navy he had been



**Dr Thomas Stuttford on a new condom, Caesarean sections, danger signs for Boris Yeltsin, curious bequests and a yew tree drug**

impressed by the jokes the sailors made about the difficulties of fitting a condom. The naval jokes may have been coarse but they exposed a real problem, known in the more polite medical circles as condom impotence. The difficulty of removing a condom from the packet and putting it on, while still retaining enthusiasm was more than the

fragile libido of some men can withstand, so that by the time it is fitted, it is no longer needed.

Keith has designed a plastic pack, manufactured near Cannes, which enables the condom provided by the leading Japanese manufacturers to be extracted easily and always the right way up, ready for immediate application. The base of the condom is surrounded by a split, plastic ring which makes it easy to roll on but, once on, the ring can be quickly discarded. Its ease of fitting means that eye contact between the lovers may never be lost, which is important emotionally and physically, that it is not torn which is essential for contraception and that it expands readily and so does not split when first applied.

**H** e explained that his experience in commerce after he left the Navy had taught him that any product which had been unchanged for two generations, like contraceptives, was wide open for competition. He realised that the time taken to fit a condom, the inability to immediately adapt to all sizes and conditions of men and their messiness had been tolerated for 50 years, but had limited their use. By using his training in design, he had been able to overcome

these problems and now felt that he could supply a commodity which when it had gained international acceptance, would help cut the number of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The condom, marketed as Topaz, is now available in chemist shops and plans are under way to dispense them from slot machines.



Love can bring problems as a former naval officer found



## Madonna judged too harshly

**T**HE BIRTH of a child is one of the most important days in a woman's life, and Madonna, whose daughter, Lourdes Maria Chacona Leon was born in a Los Angeles hospital this week, is no exception. Reports before the birth hinted that the singer might use her power and influence to opt for a slick and pain-free delivery. An option, it was implied, which her doctors were happy to agree to, thereby avoiding any unforeseen problems of a normal delivery that could have resulted in litigation.

The public judged Madonna, and her doctors, too harshly. She hoped to have her baby vaginally, and she even expressed a desire before the birth not to have any pain-killing drugs during labour.

Madonna is a fitness fanatic, but even so she is 38 and having her first child, so there was reason to suppose that she would have a greater likelihood of needing a Caesarean section than a younger woman, or a woman of her age who had already had other babies. Anecdotal evidence suggests that very athletic women (and Madonna exercises for many hours a day) sometimes have more difficult labours. Traditionally, it has been assumed, as far as I know without scientific evidence, that the very well developed pelvic musculature of physical education instructors, athletes and super-fit physiotherapists tend to delay rather than expedite labour.

Though paediatrician Dr Paul Fleiss, who supervised the delivery at the singer's request, announced yesterday that the delivery had been natural, the fact remains that, in America, 20 per cent of deliveries are by Caesarean section. In Britain we still do not match this figure, but the percentage is beginning to creep up.

Birth pangs: Madonna wanted a normal birth, although in America 20 per cent of deliveries are by Caesarean section

## The dangers signs confront Yeltsin

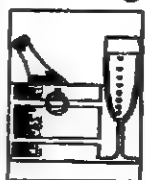


President Yeltsin: his medical advisers say he is anaemic

**E**ARLIER this week it was reported that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's doctors are again disturbed by their patient's condition, and that preparations for surgery have been delayed by abnormal findings in his blood. Later, his medical advisers issued a denial saying there was no trouble, other than that the President was anaemic.

However, anaemia is a symptom, not a disease, and it is a frequent finding in patients with either advanced kidney or liver disease. One ominous cause of anaemia is bleeding from oesophageal varices, enlarged varicose veins in the oesophagus, which can complicate cirrhosis. There's always a danger that an oesophageal vein may rupture and bleed catastrophically.

## Dying in comfort



**J**OAN Thirkettle's bequest to her oncologist, Dr Geoffrey Tobias, of a bottle of champagne a month, so long as she remained at the Middlesex Hospital, should help to remove some of the taboos surrounding death. Choosing a kindly and above all knowledgeable doctor, who can enable a patient to have as smooth an end to life as possible is almost as important as selecting a competent obstetrician to give a baby the best possible start when they are delivered into the world.

Miss Thirkettle's gratitude for the way in which Dr Tobias looked after her in her last months was touching. But not everybody is able to share Miss Thirkettle's good fortune in being cared for by Dr Tobias, but they can discover his philosophy on cancer: he has just written a book *Cancer: What Every Patient Needs To Know* (Bloomsbury £6.99). It is authoritative and optimistic for, of course, many cases of cancer are eminently treatable. Dr Tobias's book describes the various conditions, all cancers are different, and the treatments available. He deals in a straightforward and honest way with the problems of palliative and terminal care.

Although Dr Tobias's champagne is an unusual bequest, patients do sometimes make curious will. When I was in practice in Norfolk, a local landowner,

## A chance for life



**T**AXOL is one of the drugs made from yew trees, and is again in the news. It prolongs the life of many patients who have cancer of the breast, tending to be reserved for younger women who have rapidly spreading disease and are resistant to other treatments. Anna Labella, 33, was recently recommended by North Middlesex Hospital for treatment, in the hope that it would prolong her time with her family. Enfield and Haringey health authority had refused because of cost, but agreed, saying that no more patients will be treated until more is known about the drug.

Professor Karol Zikora of the Hammersmith Hospital was quoted in the *BMJ* as saying that Taxol and Taxotere did prolong life, although the full picture was not yet known.

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CHANGING TIMES

## IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

**Back numbers of the IBS Bulletin produced quarterly by the IBS Research Team at the Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust are available at £1.00 each including p&p.**

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- Issue Six:** Initial results of survey. Women and IBS. The varices of IBS. Diet and IBS. Alternative diets, health foods and supplements.
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كثيرا من الاصل



# The wronged wife at bay

This time, he has definitely gone too far. So, what is a girl to do? Jane Shilling considers the options

Well, she's done it now, and no mistake. Jerry Hall, I mean. By consulting Anthony Julius, the Princess of Wales's suave and scholarly divorce lawyer, she has progressed from firing blanks to live ammunition in her latest marital skirmish with the errant Mick Jagger. Her patience with his indiscreet philandering in the course of their 20-year relationship (they did not marry until 1990) has been exemplary — she once admitted that "Mick's never going to change". But now she's had enough — or possibly it's just that she feels she has explored to its limit the extent of a woman's repertoire of tactics for dealing with the exquisite humiliation of such very public infidelity.

It may be of some comfort for Jerry to reflect that her difficulty with the grandfathers of the rock is one for which women have been trying since the world began to come up with a satisfactory solution. The shock and misery of being betrayed is the same whether one is a celeb whose domestic life routinely makes the front pages of the tabloids, or Mrs Jones whose old man's deception with the busty barmaid from the Goat and Compasses has kept the corner shop amused for weeks on end.

So what's a girl to do when she finds herself in this plight? The number of options is not huge — and Jerry seems to have explored most of them. The instinctive reaction of many women is to shoulder the blame themselves. It's a long moment of critical self-examination reveals red eyes, a shiny nose, stretch marks and a sex life for which moribund would be too animated a word, the temptation is to do something drastic.

Attempts to pep up a flagging sex life with aphrodisiacs have been known to backfire very badly. Mme de Pompadour, Louis XV's mistress, feared at one stage that the King's interest in her was cooling because of her lack of initiative on the chaise longue, and promptly put herself on a diet calculated to "warm the blood". This, consisting large-

ly of hot chocolate and celery, soon made her unwell — and even less keen on sex than before.

The traditional aristocratic response to infidelity is to pretend that Nothing Is Happening — just don't frighten the horses. Jerry has been terribly good at this, dismissing impermanent interlopers such as Carla Bruni in much the same grand manner as Bianca Jagger once dismissed her ("Jerry who?").

The middle-class version, much practised by the wives of erring politicians, is Good Behaviour. If I am very, very patient and don't Make A Scene perhaps virtue will be rewarded and he will come back to me and everything will be All Right. Thus we are presented with the painful spectacle of nice women such as Jane Ashdown and Judith Mellow "coping" — facing the cameras in their best Jaeger two-piece, gripping their husbands by their Savile Row sleeves as though standing at the bridge of a foundering ship, their faces a smiling mask in which courage is blended with mortification.

But the temptation, particularly with a serial adulterer, must be to find some satisfaction in making his life as horrible as he has made yours. The great question here is whether active or passive aggression gets the better result.

Expert practitioners of the active form include Elizabeth Taylor, whose drunken brawls with Richard Burton provoked him to describe their relationship as "Marvellous... but murder". Dame Maggie Smith, about whom her former husband Sir Robert Stevens plaintively remarked: "It was like living with knives", and the splendid Lady Graham Moon, who scissored her wayward husband's suits, distributed the contents of his wine cellar around the county and, with all the forthright energy of the British countrywoman at bay, formed a support group, the Old Bage Club, for wronged wives. Holder of the Oscar for Lifetime Achievement in aggressive victimhood is, of course, Diana, Princess of Wales.

The instinctive reaction of women is to blame themselves



Jerry Hall has talked to lawyers about splitting from the errant Mick Jagger, while Elizabeth Taylor married Richard Burton twice. He described their life as "marvellous... but murder"



Paddy and Jane Ashdown: she stood by him



David and Judith Mellor: she kept quiet



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HEWLETT-PACKARD

## Carers' champion

Valerie Grove talks to Alf Morris, MP, about his efforts to get help for people who care for disabled relatives

We all know someone in this situation. Tied to the home, looking after an elderly relation or a handicapped child, day in, day out. We think: "Doesn't anyone ever give them a break?" And we do nothing about it. But today, as he has done every other day this week, Alf Morris will place on the order paper his Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-Term Breaks) Bill.

This would provide respite for about 100,000 people — a significant minority who otherwise may get no relief from the never-ending, nerve-wrecking care of their charges. It would oblige local authorities, when they assess the help needed to enable disabled people to live at home — such aids as wider doors, stair-lifts, adapted bathrooms — to write into the requirements an occasional break for the carer. "Carers are the most admired people in Britain," as Morris says, "but they are also among the most exploited."

Morris after seeing all those sharp young blades at the Labour conference is to be reminded of the quiet altruism and dogged persistence of the older Labour generation. He is a veteran of the battle for the interests of the disabled, having won the 1969 private members' ballot and drafted the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill, which recognised, almost for the first time, obvious human needs. As we walk through the Commons he

'They are among the most exploited people in Britain'

points out a stair-lift to the Jubilee Room, part of the £750,000 newly installed access for wheelchair users.

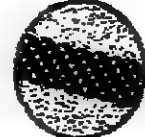
When Mr Morris was born in 1928, his father was an invalid: he had lost a leg in the First World War and had been gassed. "I know how a whole family's life is affected if one member is disabled. I watched my father fade away. When I was seven he died. His injuries were war-related, but because he had lived on for several years after the war, my mother didn't qualify for a war widow's pension." Mrs Morris had five children to bring up; she wrote to her MP, Harry Thorneycroft. "Her letter was written on a scrappy bit of paper, but Harry Thorneycroft came to see her, took up her case and got her that pension. 'When you're old enough, you'll be giving out leaflets for Mr Thorneycroft,' she told me. And that's how I

first became involved with politics. Two of her sons and her grand-daughter became MPs." (Alf Morris's brother was also a Labour MP; his niece Estelle Morris is member for Birmingham Yardley).

Carers' organisations estimate that carers provide the home care equivalent to the value of the cost of the entire NHS. For the Government it makes economic sense to encourage this. But it is most often a woman who sacrifices family life or job to keep a grown-up child or an elderly disabled parent out of institutional care.

"Supporting carers is a moral and social priority," Morris says. "Providing short breaks may be as important as a phone, and should be listed among the services. With 20/20 hindsight, when we drafted the 1970 Bill we might have provided for respite breaks when we made provision for recreation and day-care centres. The other week in Blackpool a man told us he and his wife went to the Lake District for 48 hours, their first holiday together for ten years. It makes no sense to the taxpayer to push people to the extreme of their endurance."

The only presumable objection to the short breaks Bill must be the imagined cost. "There is a preoccupation with the cost of everything — but we are talking pennies here. Institutional care costs pounds. And if carers break down under the pressure of caring, you end up with two people to care for." Morris insists that if given the nod by ministers, this Bill could be through the Commons and into law in an hour of parliamentary time. "It is not a battle between left and right, it's between right and wrong. And between Government and Parliament. So it will be there, on the order paper every day, stirring them in the face and stirring their consciences."



The clear image created by HP ink droplets on HP paper



## Judge who lost his duel with vox populi

Public opinion forced ministers to pre-empt Lord Cullen's judicious report, says Magnus Linklater

There were surely times during the preparation of his report when Douglas Cullen must have longed to reach for his gavel, hammer on the bench and order "Silence in Court!"

Rarely can a public inquiry have been conducted against a background of such clamorously dissenting opinion. He has been subjected to intense pressure from parents and politicians. He has been under constant scrutiny from a rapacious media. His recommendations have been pre-empted by the very Government which commissioned him in the first place.

But through it all has come a report as meticulous in its dissection of the evidence as it is balanced in its conclusions. However it is used or misused, traduced or vilified, it is there on the record, as valuable in its assessment of gun laws, youth clubs or the security of our schools as his Piper Alpha report was on the safety of oil rigs at sea.

It is a measure of the man himself that he has appeared almost untouched by the conflict. I saw him last weekend at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh, watching a rumbustious performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, relaxed and to all appearances at ease with himself. Lord Cullen is not a naturally gregarious man, but he is a witty companion and a great expert on the buildings of his native Edinburgh, about which he has written several books. There is always about him, however, a certain remoteness, a feeling that you would be wise not to presume too much on his friendship. That detachment, the natural quality of a good judge, is a useful ingredient in the debate now exploding around his report.

Whatever the political capital to be made out of an issue which should by rights have nothing to do with politics, however anguished the views of parents and teachers in Dunblane, Lord Cullen's findings will provide the essential sounding board for them all. When the new laws restricting the use and calibre of handguns are finally drawn up, it is he who will give them their framework. That, after all, is why he was appointed.

Throughout the report, he has looked at the implications of an outright ban on handguns. He found that there were real difficulties about it. "It is," as he says, "necessary to decide what risk is acceptable, bearing in mind that some risk is an inevitable feature of daily life. Against the risk to society has to be balanced the loss of freedom of the individual."

He concludes, after painstaking examination of all the alternatives, that he does not consider "the banning of handguns for target shooting or the banning of shooting clubs would be justified". Anyone who now continues to argue for more draconian measures will have to deal with his arguments. The need to reach a workable rather than just a popular solution, and the balancing of freedom

of action with the protection of children, were more important than simply responding to public opinion. That does not mean that there is a lack of natural sympathy towards those who had suffered. "He gave you great confidence in his impartiality," said one parent, "but equally you were aware that he was not immune to the sheer awfulness of what had happened."

It became clear from an early stage that however sensible his conclusions, public opinion would not be content to wait for them. The very evidence that was presented to him about the proliferation of handguns and their capacity forced the pace. It spurred the parents into an increasingly high-profile campaign. Then, six weeks into the hearings, the Commons Home Affairs Committee divided down party lines and its Tory members indicated they would not be recommending a total ban on handguns. That helped to launch the hugely successful Snowdrop campaign, which set the emotional tone of the debate, summed up by the parents' articulate spokeswoman Ann Pearson: "If legislation falls short of a complete ban, it shows that we and our children are expendable so that 57,000 target shooters can retain their right to pursue a sport that uses weapons designed to kill."

Like all successful slogans it was simple but effective. Thereafter, any police response was measured against it. A curb on the ownership of handguns was not enough; a "complete ban on handguns" became the operative statement. Tony Blair indicated that he favoured it. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, defending his tiny majority in Stirling, made it clear that he, too, was for strong action. David Mellor claimed that guns were now "the most important issue for years".

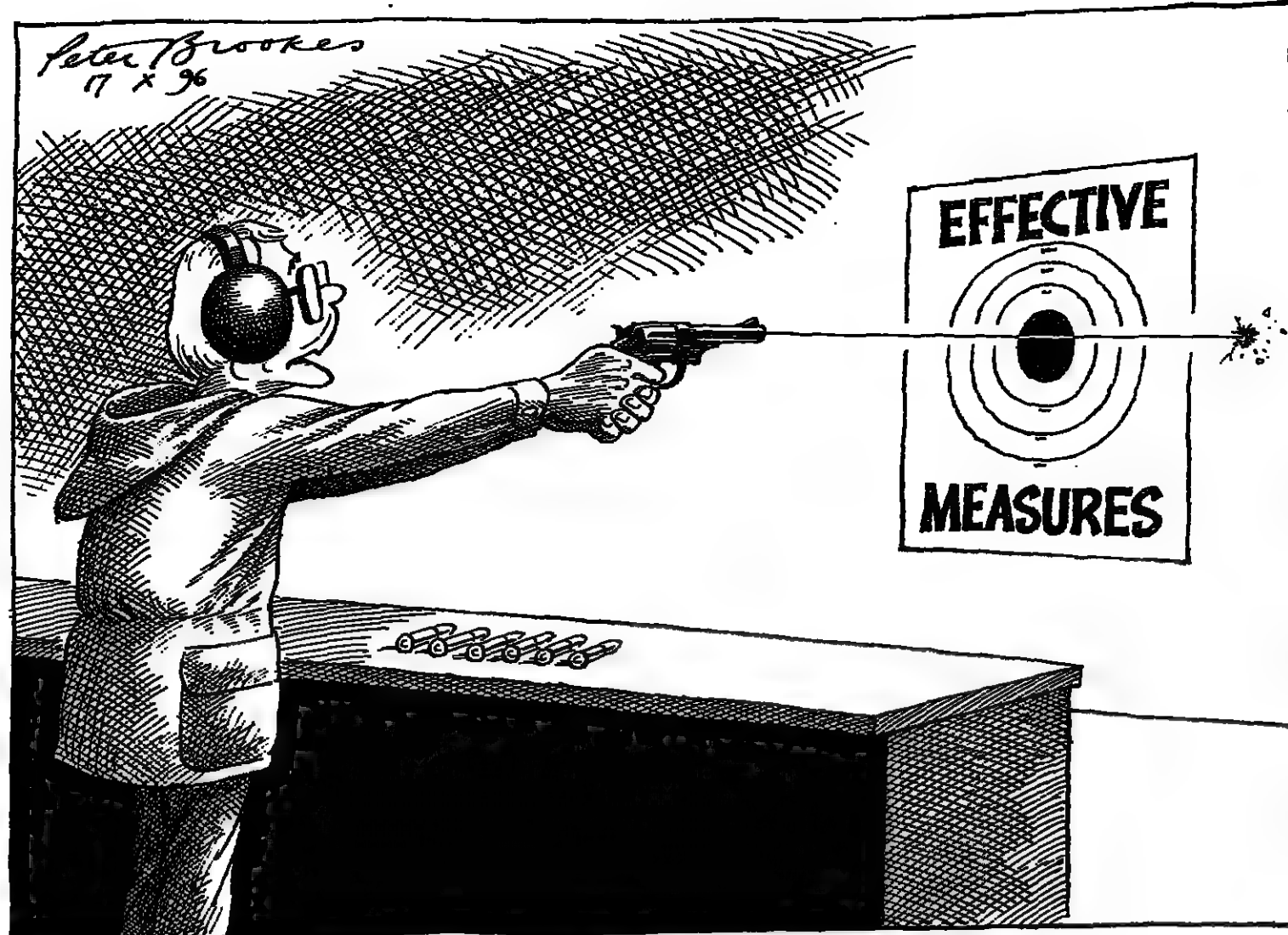
None of this helped to clarify the issues that Lord Cullen was wrestling with. What it meant, however, was that the moderate position, and the one which Lord Cullen favours, was soon eclipsed. Instead of "Wait for Cullen", the slogan became "We will go further than Cullen." Many of the Dunblane parents and teachers have now reached the fundamentalist position, which urges a ban on the possession and ownership, not just of handguns but all guns, including shotguns and rifles. The present Government will not go that far. A Labour Government just might.

On the issue of handguns and handguns alone, Lord Cullen has been overtaken by public opinion, and by a Government anxious not to be outplayed by the Opposition. But the groundwork that he has done has provided the essential foundation on which the new recommendations now rest. No politician worth his salt will be able to reach a conclusion without reference to his report. It is essential evidence and that is what a good judge is there to present to the jury of public opinion.

### Draconian measures must meet Cullen's objections

He would have cited the need to support youth and the family, about the regime's practical success in reducing unemployment, about the need to defend the State against alien threats and to restore Germany to a leading European place, about the need to save Europe itself from Soviet Communism, about the survival of the fittest, about the idealism which called on all Germans to serve their race and their leader.

In fact, these policies led to the war, the Gestapo, the concentration camps and the Holocaust. But that does not mean that they had no appeal at the time, or that similar arguments have no appeal now. Some of the Nazi arguments were, indeed, true. Hitler's economic programme after 1933 was rather more successful than Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in reducing unemployment. The average non-Jewish German was almost certainly better off in 1935 than he had been when Hitler came to power. Foreign nations did again perceive Germany as a great power and reacted accordingly. In 1936, after his first term as President, Franklin Roosevelt was overwhelmingly re-elected, with his Republican rival only carrying two states. If Hitler had



## Europe's fascist spectre

Far-Right parties exploit Maastricht just as Hitler did the Versailles treaty

There are only too many fascists, neo-fascists and quasi-fascists at large in Europe nowadays. I have talked to Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the Italian National Alliance Party, and I think he is genuinely an fascist, but his party undoubtedly attracts the fascist audience. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the Italian Northern League, has fascist attributes, and is a threat to the unity of the Italian state. Jean Marie Le Pen's support is rising in France. Now Jörg Haider's Freedom Party has won 27.6 per cent of the vote in Austria's European elections, and the German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, has expressed his "deep concern". He is right to be worried.

For the last 50 years it has been embarrassing for people to express even the most qualified admiration for fascism, so horrible were the crimes of European fascism in the 1930s and 1940s. Yet some of the attributes of fascism have always been popular. If one had asked an intelligent Nazi in 1935 to make the case for Hitler, he would have talked about the need for leadership, about the weakness and corruption of the democracies, about the importance of building a strong community.

He would have cited the need to support youth and the family, about the regime's practical success in reducing unemployment, about the need to defend the State against alien threats and to restore Germany to a leading European place, about the need to save Europe itself from Soviet Communism, about the survival of the fittest, about the idealism which called on all Germans to serve their race and their leader.

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When democracy cannot deliver what the people want, the idea of dictatorship becomes popular. In 1933 German democracy was weakened by the slump, by the social destruction of the inflation of the 1920s, by high unemployment, by a pervasive sense of moral decline, by the existence of extremist parties. Communists as well as Nazis, and by the loss of self-confidence of the leading democratic politicians. Those conditions plainly do not exist in

modern Germany. Unemployment is higher than it should be, but inflation is low. Germany is prosperous, there are no extremist parties in Parliament, and Chancellor Kohl is a figure of world authority. It is not in Germany that one would now fear a revival of European fascism: the defenses of German democracy are strengthened by the memories of Nazism just as the mark is strengthened by the historic fear of inflation.

Democracy may be weaker in those European countries where fascism has already been able to establish an electoral position. Austria is a special case. The Austrians have done less to re-examine their 20th-century history than almost any other European nation. They seem to pity themselves as the first victims of Hitler, when many of them were enthusiastic junior partners in the Third Reich. Herr Haider is not another Hitler — many of his policies are very different — but he does draw on the support of sections of the Austrian electorate whose parents or grandparents were mostly enthusiastic Nazis. Hitler himself drew on this right-wing tradition, including its anti-Semitism, and formed his own ideology in pre-1914 Vienna.

More worrying is the state of democracy in the three great Latin nations: France, Spain and Italy. In France and Italy there are already significant parties with fascist connections. In all three countries there is high unemployment, an eighth of the working population in France and Italy, a quarter in Spain. All three countries have serious corruption, with Italy's the worst. All three have a public opinion disillusioned by the failures of elected politicians. In all three one meets the Europeanism of despair: that is not a lack of faith in a strong and healthy European future, but a fear that without Europe the nations would collapse.

The Maastricht project for a single currency is making all three defend their economies to try to meet the convergence criteria. Yet none of the

three will be able to meet the criteria in real terms, though France may meet them by creative accounting. If the euro emerges as a strong currency, which is what the Germans want, then this deflation will have to continue. If it emerges as a weak currency, which is rather more likely, then Germany will have exchanged the mark for a pseudo-lira.

Anti-Semitism was not only a part of Hitler's propaganda, but expressed a deep psychological anxiety shared by many Germans and by Hitler himself. Similar fears about immigrant groups exist in most modern West European countries, not excluding Britain. These fears are felt particularly strongly by the French, who are alarmed by the North Africans in their midst. In a recent by-election near Marseille, Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front and the Communists between them took 64 per cent of the vote, humiliating the Socialists and Gaullists.

One should not exaggerate the stage of democratic failure that has been reached so far: 27.6 per cent in Austria is far from a majority. All that can yet be said is that some of the pre-conditions of democratic failure exist in some of the European countries. But suppose that in the early years of the next century there is a systemic failure of the European economy, because of high unemployment, because the euro is too strong or too weak, or because of a Europe-wide failure to meet low cost Asian competition. Suppose that resentment about unemployment and immigration is turned against Europe, that the national democratic failures become a European failure. Then the lifeboat will become a death trap.

The pre-condition of fascism is the failure of democracy. A sign of democratic failure is the desire to transfer power away from democratic bodies to unaccountable bodies, from the nations to Europe. Adding the national failures together will not create a successful Europe, though that is what the European Union is now planning to do.

A Europe-wide systemic failure of democracy would open the way for neo-fascism in the national elections. We do not need to fear fascism because it is weak and repulsive, but because many people find it strong and attractive. Like the Devil himself, fascism is strong, attractive but deadly.

### William Rees-Mogg



Breakaway pack of hounds: bloodhound and Sir Richard Body

astonished: "It's absolutely untrue," said a spokeswoman.

### Doggone

BLOODHOUNDS are the latest outlet for the rebellious instincts of Sir Richard Body, MP for Holland and Boston, one of the original and certainly the most burly of the Tory Euro-skeptics. Body, for several years the Joint Master of the Windsor Forest Bloodhounds, has now set up his own, breakaway hunt: the Southern Shires Bloodhounds.

On Sunday, Body took himself across the Berkshire countryside as the prey. "We do clean boot

hunting," he says. "No special scent involved." Any dog-owning Euro-skeptic yet to hitch up to the Referendum Party should get in touch.

● Bungee jumpers, white water rafters and thrill seekers everywhere might like a new job advertised by the BBC World Service and proving unpopular among staff already there: permanent representative in Kabul, Afghanistan, a town currently being flattened with the regularity of a wicket in high summer.

P.H.S

## A nation clobbered by bag and baggage

Derwent May on the dangers of the power accessory

I was hit by bags four times coming into the offices of *The Times* at Wapping the other morning — once on the neck, once on the shoulder and twice on the hip. Big bags are the new British phenomenon. A blow from Lady Thatcher's handbag was a fleabite compared with the danger one is now in on buses, trains and pavements.

It began, I think, with the hard-edged briefcase (or attache case) — the wooden box, like a small drawer covered in scaly black material, that men started carrying about two or three years ago. The soft leather briefcase melted away before it.

Challenge begot challenge, and women's handbags started creeping up in size until they were really not handbags at all. The last time I saw one of those authentic specimens was when several women put them down behind their chairs at our dinner-table, and our dog came and sniffed through them, tossing 55 notes and contact lenses in all directions.

Now almost all women carry strapped and buckled bags that are getting on for kitbag size. You could not put them under your dining chair now — they would have to go under the sideboard. Some women carry two or three bags, and walk with both arms permanently crooked to hold them.

All kinds of other bags have followed in their wake — valises for men to take to the office, big dumpling-like cloth bags tied with a string and slung from the shoulder, other gigantic shoulder-bags with fiercely-metallic corners for either sex to swing.

But the most widespread newcomer of all is the fashionable backpack (once known as a rucksack) that has sprung up exactly like mushrooms on people's backs. It is used to be "If you want to get ahead, get a hat", now it is "If you want to get ahead get a hump".

Children of two wear them, and every other age up to about 35. They are being manufactured in more and more varied designs. I had a near miss from the leg of one shaped like a teddy bear the other day.

I am not saying that people are less polite than they used to be. Most of them move their bodies delicately to avoid you, as courteous English people have always done. But they simply lack the instinct to allow for their excesses. They swing round on the pavement to say something funny to their companion, and the backpack goes straight into a passer-by. They weave sensitively down the aisle of a bus, with their shoulder-bag striking every alternate person who is sitting down.

And what is in those bags? That is the mystery. The answer to what is in the hand briefcases is the easiest to give. Men travelling on the London Underground will sometimes open them on their knees for a moment, and you get a glimpse. They contain a copy of last night's *Evening Standard* and an apple, or a box of paper handkerchiefs and an apple. In brief, they contain nothing. Like all the other bags, they are power bags, carried purely for their own sake.

But that still leaves the question of what is in all the other bags, so visibly and tangibly packed. Not all the cosmetics and complementary pills in Boots could fill those women's bags. Are they stuffed with thermal vests, a year's copies of *Harper's & Queen*, a portable pregnancy test and a cardboard case of yoghurt? Even those could not produce a missile as heavy and lethal as some of the bags you see.

I have never owned a briefcase of any kind. From an early age I knew that if I got one, it would become an embodied part of me as the nose and lip rings that you also see around you nowadays (though how harmlessly!) on the Tube.

I have never found that I need to carry anything to or from work with me, except from time to time when I wanted a book or two. To take several books does indeed pose a problem without a bag — they slip easily from under a tucked arm and damage their corners when they fall — and I acknowledge that I have had recourse at times to a plastic bag — something that I hate both seeing and carrying.

But I have a degree of sympathy for people who carry plastic bags, unattractive though they look. At least I know that they are carrying something for a genuine purpose — they could not possibly just be trying to make an impression. And if the contents could inflict an injury, at least the bag itself can do no harm.

It might be tempting to have a bag just as a means of defence, and indeed I have witnessed more than one resounding clash between bag carriers. But I do not let my thoughts go down that road. More often, though I am no lover of things Japanese, I simply long for the day — which like all things, is bound to come — when the bunsai bag comes into fashion.

However, I must confess to offence against my fellow pedestrians. On a rainy day, I cannot go a hundred yards down a street without hitting someone on the head with my umbrella.

## Scotch mist

APOLOGIES have arrived from Sir Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea, after his fabulously intoxicated showing at last week's Tory conference. He was found completely smashed and flat on his face on a Bournemouth street after a big night with the staff of the Irish Embassy. A combination of pain killers and alcohol, pleaded "Scotch" Scott — although those who have seen him pack it away at



"It was OK, but Summer Holiday's story was stronger"

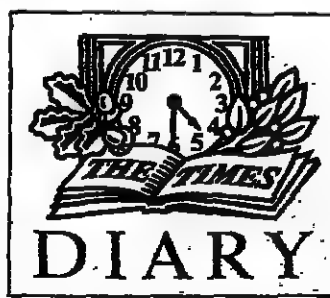
constituency parties were not so convinced.

Writing to his local association, Scott says: "I wanted to write to you as a member of the General Purposes Committee to say how deeply sorry I am for the problems which the events of the last week have caused. I have, unwittingly, hurt a lot of people; but I hope you will not believe everything you may have read in the press."

Scott needs to do some sucking up for he will face one of the least unimpressive Referendum Party candidates, Robin Birley, in the general election. Fissures are already appearing among K & C's conservatives who represent some of the Referenders' ripest targets. "I cannot turn the clock back," Scott ends his letter, "and I know I will long regret the incident."

### Pricey prance

ALWAYS one for the grand gesture, Kerry Packer, media magnate and ageing polo player, has bought the rights to Diana, Princess of Wales's visit to Australia. He is said to have paid £1.5 million to a hospital charity for exclusive



media coverage of her visit this month.

The development follows my story earlier this month that James Packer, his square-jawed son, has his heart set on a dance with the Princess when she visits. Packer senior's generous gesture should ensure that Jamie gets his waltz.

### Artful dodge

MODESTY overcame Sean Connery at the first night in London of his tremendous production of *Yasmina Reza's* play *Art*, starring Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott. He insisted that praise for its success was due not to himself but to his wife, Micheline. "She discovered it," he explained.

Micheline admitted to the discovery, after breaking the habit of a lifetime and visiting the theatre

in Paris. "I was collared by a friend and dragged along," she said, "but I liked it so much that I made Sean see it."

### Bigwig

MORE shocking to the world of rock than news of Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall's marital difficulties is a vicious rumour doing the air-guitar circuit: that the lead singer of the Rolling Stones doesn't enjoy a full head of hair.

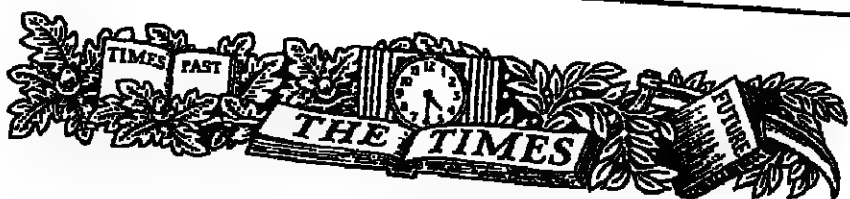
Whatever the case, wigs now feature large in the rock business — four out of five of the band Deep Purple are said to sport hairpieces — and tonsorial technology can ensure they remain fixed despite vigorous dancing. Jagger's office is



Micheline: a discovery



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## CULLEN'S CRAFT

Deep thought and feeling for the victims of Dunblane

The tragedy of Dunblane touched the nation. The suffering of parents robbed of their children prompted a desire for action, to minimise the risk of such an atrocity ever happening again. It is right that Parliament should respond speedily with legislation to protect the public. New laws are the least the Dunblane parents are due. A wise response, however, will acknowledge emotion's claim without allowing it to overwhelm. It is important that consequent legislation, conceived in justified anger, is considered with proper calm.

The possibility of any Act being introduced so soon after the killings is due in great measure to the skill, speed and thoroughness of Lord Cullen. His conduct of the inquiry into the tragic events of March 13 has secured the gratitude of all those affected and his report should also win him the thanks of legislators. Its recommendations will allow Parliament to introduce measures which should improve school safety, the operation of youth organisations and the licensing of firearms. Lord Cullen's proposals to train some and accredit all of those who work with young people are altogether welcome. The inquiry exposed the worrying ease with which a man like Thomas Hamilton could set up a boys' club and exercise unsupervised authority over the vulnerable young. Bureaucratic interference in civil associations is rarely welcome but this intervention in defence of children is absolutely necessary.

The other significant recommendations which should safeguard children are the proposals governing school security. It is reassuring that the Government is prepared to release money to allow improvements to be made. Lord Cullen's recommendations draw on the logic of his report into the explosion on the Piper Alpha oil rig. Investigating how safety procedures broke down then with such appalling loss of life, he concluded that rather than an outside body laying down specific recommendations it should be up to the operators of a platform to construct a "safety case" and argue that their independently generated plan would protect lives. By asking schools to prepare their own safety strategy and action plan Lord Cullen recognises that a single set of rules he might lay down cannot cover the wide variety of schools in the country. School safety should spring from hard thinking by teachers and the search for best practice rather than

passive adoption of new regulations. New regulation is, however, precisely what is needed to cover the licensing of guns.

Lord Cullen concedes in his report that even if police suspicions had led to Thomas Hamilton's gun licence being revoked he would have won it back on appeal. The proposals to insist on two references for any licence, to monitor better the weapons use of gun owners, to allow chief police officers to revoke licences and to make the appeal process tougher are all welcome. They should go a significant way to limiting the chances of lethal weapons being held in legal, but altogether unsuitable, hands.

But no licensing scheme, however tightly drawn, can prevent guns being misused. That is why Lord Cullen, the Government and the opposition parties are all right to argue, albeit to different degrees, for restrictions on the availability of handguns. Handguns, unlike shotguns or rifles, are easy to conceal and are designed to kill people not animals. Although thousands enjoy innocent sport with handguns, many who use them are not restrained by the traditional taboos which influence those who stalk and shoot game with rifle and shotgun. An ugly subculture has developed which celebrates the power that handguns are supposed to confer. It is absolutely right to ensure that individuals are denied the weapons which Thomas Hamilton used to such devastating effect. There should be no place for semi-automatic weapons except on the battlefield or in the policeman's holster.

Indeed, the case for banning all handguns, as made by Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP and the former Home Office Minister, David Mellor, is extremely persuasive. The Home Secretary is right, however, to draw attention to the unhappy history of absolute prohibition. By restricting ownership of handguns to those of low calibre which have long been used in sport and insisting they be held under stringent security in clubs, Mr Howard may be able to allow genuine sportsmen an outlet and prevent the driving of law-abiding individuals outside the law. Mr Straw's support for a total ban on handguns has the merit of simplicity and overwhelming popular support. But before any absolute ban is introduced MPs should reflect on whether there is a last case for caution. The victims of Dunblane deserve hard thinking as well as deep feeling.

## SIMPLE, SIGNORA

How Bonino can improve Europe's fisheries policy

This week, not for the first time, Britain and Spain clashed angrily over fish. The collision between Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, and Loyola de Palacio, his hectoring Spanish counterpart (whose tackle derives more from rugby than from fishing), was messy proof of the gulf that still separates this country from other member states of the European Union on fundamental issues.

Radical reform of the common fisheries policy has long been needed. British fishermen have long needed more defence from the British government. Mr Baldry was correct to stand his ground this week on the vexed question of Spanish "quota-hoppers", even if it earned him the Iberian ire of Senor de Palacio. The conservation of Europe's depleted fish stocks cannot be now be properly accomplished without fundamental, and rapid, reform.

Emma Bonino, the EU's Fisheries Commissioner, is right to seek a cut in fishing fleets and the total allowable catch. Far too much fish is caught by far too many fishermen with far too few controls. Yet for Britain to accept a reduction in its fishing fleet, a way must be found to take account of the large, de facto "reduction" which has occurred already: since foreign fishermen control 20 per cent of Britain's off-shore fleet tonnage, this country has operated for the last decade at only 80 per cent of its legitimate capacity. New fleet cuts would deplete that percentage still further.

There are two ways forward. Either bona fide British fishermen should be exempted from the proposed cuts, on the argument

that these are already effectively in place. Or the Commission should impose the same cuts on the British fleet as on everyone else's, but do away with the "quota-hoppers". The second option is the better. The first option would not protect fish stocks, and would leave the question of "quota-hoppers" unanswered. The second option would tackle both fronts: it would ensure that fewer fish are caught by fewer fishermen, as well as ensuring that British fishermen enjoy the fruits of Britain's deep-sea resources. It would also serve as a template for the much needed, top-to-bottom overhaul of the common fisheries policy.

Flag of fishing convenience — the very problem which the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act sought to address — are at the core of Europe's fishing crisis. The time has come for nationality and residence requirements for vessel owners, operators and employees. Fishing companies wishing to register in Britain must prove that their vessels are at least 75 per cent British-owned. This departure from free-market principles can be justified in terms of the alarmingly depleted, potentially non-renewable nature of the resource. This is a genuine emergency.

Britain cannot sit back and allow plunder to continue. It must fight against the European fisheries policy in the European way, with vigour, aggression, and the strongest resolve. The EU spends £400 million to subsidise Europe's enormous fishing fleet, a third of which is Spanish (excluding "quota-hoppers"). If Britain's fleet is cut, so must the Spanish subsidy be. It is as simple as that, Signora Bonino.

## BITTER HERITAGE

A few thoughts, minister, on preserving the great British pub

The Campaign for Real Ale says that the traditional British pub needs conservation just as much as stately homes and cathedrals. Never slow to jump on a popular beerwagon, Mrs Bottomley's Department of National Heritage may be preparing an inventory of historic public houses that preserve this unique British tradition. A first draft of the report has fortuitously found its way to *The Times*.

The Slughorn and Stradivarius (a vile inn) epitomises the cosy hospitality of the London pub, praised by writers from Dr Johnson to Charles Dickens. The regulars (many music students) crouch over the bar so densely that the irregular visitor has to semaphore his order across a wall three backs deep. Guest tables are a recent tradition, and are so flat that they serve them on a platter.

The Rover's in Manchester represents the mythical Never-Never-Tavern of Northern soap opera dreams. Mine Hosts, Vera and Jack Duckworth, are legendary, and as ageless as make-up and their agents can keep them. The snug may have gone. But Betty's hotpot is still top of the menu in this

age of the microwave, more popular even than such traditional dishes as Ploughman's with Kiwi fruit and chicken satay. The stars discuss their emotional problems while the extras mouth rhubarb. The view of Coronation Street cannot be missed.

Macbeth's Head at Stratford-upon-Avon combines the lure of the heritage trail with the attractions of Olde English Taverns. Pub games draw the coachloads. But the Bard's beer and skittles and Shakespeare's shove ha'penny have been replaced by Petruccio's pool tables. The spread of this traditional new game has added to the tight intimacy and back-chat that make the British pub inimitable.

The Wearing of the Green is one of the new tradition of cod Irish pubs. The bar staff are given a course in stage Irish accents, and there are two barmaids on duty, one to serve drinks and the other to waffle ethnically and listen to blarney. The push-button till makes surprising profits, but they could sell even more stout if they filled the glasses properly. There are regular opportunities to contribute to traditional Irish charities.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID I. JONES,  
The Coach House, Pabo,  
Llandudno Junction, Conwy.

## Handgun ban and risks to the public

From Mr Richard Warden

Sir, I suggest those who oppose the storage of most of the remaining handguns in clubs (reports, October 15, 16) have produced an argument in favour of the total prohibition of these weapons.

Dunblane and Hungerford have created an overwhelming view that, at minimum, private ownership should be banned because the risks to the public are unacceptable. If gun clubs argue that collective storage is not possible because it will create arsenals vulnerable to attack, then they are creating a position that has only one outcome: that any means of storing handguns in the UK carries unacceptable risks. The only course of action, then, is a complete ban on these weapons.

Proposals to tighten the procedures for issuing firearms certificates are not, on their own, going to satisfy people. Already the BMA has rejected the proposal for medical references (report, August 13) on the grounds that such a procedure would be unreliable. So far there has been a disappointing response from handgun owners: negative responses to possible solutions, discreditable statements made about one of the Dunblane parents, and the subsequent loss of support from Sebastian Coe, MP (report, September 12), and calls for compensation for loss of weapons if there is a ban (with no thought of compensation for the victims).

If the attitude of the gun lobby is as self-interested as it appears to me, then a total ban is the only answer.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD WARDEN,  
2 Waterloo Way, Bredon,  
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire,  
October 16.

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, A shotgun in a confined space can be as deadly as a handgun. Why then have the Government and Labour Party moved towards a total ban on handguns but not shotguns? The difference is that a pressure group has not spent the last seven months calling for the banning of shotguns. The Snowdrop campaign's frequently aired and emotionally charged argument does not stand up to scrutiny.

Had Thomas Hamilton walked into Dunblane Primary School with a shotgun, easily concealed in sawn-off form, he could have caused as much death and misery as he did with a handgun. Despite this Snowdrop have set about convincing politicians and members of the public that all handgun owners are potential mass murderers.

This apparent decision has, I'm convinced, more to do with vote-winning than trying to prevent another tragedy.

Yours faithfully,

MARK MARSH,  
5 Columbus Square,  
Manor Road, Erith, Kent.

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, As well as limiting handguns I am glad to see the Government is to restrict certain ammunition.

Any bullet can strike a vital part of the human body: but strong, sharp-pointed target rounds otherwise tend to enter and leave cleanly, inflicting less than lethal wounds.

Anti-personnel bullets — the "dumdums" banned in war — expand or disintegrate on impact, aggravating the direct damage and transferring their entire energy to the victim, to kill by hydrostatic shock. Such a 22 is fully as deadly as a conventional .38, yet is commercially available, and not to police services alone.

Simple banning might challenge the arms manufacturers to apply their formidable expertise in circumventing legislation. Rather, we need to authorise closely specified target ammunition, and prohibit all else.

Yours sincerely,

NOEL FALCONER,  
23 Bramhall Moor Lane,  
Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4JL.

From Mr David I. Jones

Sir, In the understandable concern over the possession and use of handguns there is a danger of overlooking the other ingredient that made Thomas Hamilton lethal: his obsessive and unhealthy interest in young boys which for many years went unchecked and which the police were apparently unable to address because he had not been convicted of an offence.

The crime Bill, to be put before Parliament shortly, is likely to lead to the introduction of a register of convicted paedophiles (letter, October 15) and to make it an offence for them to seek work which involves access to children. Neither of these measures, though desirable, would have been effective to curtail Hamilton's activities.

Parliament should therefore give consideration to a system of registration of clubs and other voluntary organisations in which adults have direct dealings with children. It should be a criminal offence for adults to organise youth clubs without obtaining such registration.

This would give parents the reassurance of knowing that their children were in safe hands and the police the means to deal with those, such as Hamilton, who cloak their obsessions under the guise of an interest in the welfare of young people.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID I. JONES,  
The Coach House, Pabo,  
Llandudno Junction, Conwy.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Publisher's verdict on Gerry Adams

From Mr Steve MacDonogh

Sir, On October 7 both your leading article and a report by Nicholas Watt expressed great hostility to the publication of *Before the Dawn* by Gerry Adams (letter, October 12).

I have been Mr Adams's editor and publisher since 1982. In none of his seven books published to date is there any recommendation of violence, nor is there any attempt to portray violence as exciting, admirable or heroic — unlike hundreds of books about the SAS, the Paras and other military organisations. Indeed, the principal thrust of Mr Adams's contribution to republican politics has been to argue for political rather than military approaches to resolving the conflict in Ireland and between Britain and Ireland.

*Before the Dawn* conveys in graphic detail the behaviour and activities of those whom you support so enthusiastically — successive British governments which have used the violence of combat troops in an allegedly policing role. It is therefore not surprising that you seek to denigrate the book, its publishers and author.

Irish and British commentators can argue the toss till kingdom come, weighing civilian deaths in IRA

bombings against civilians gunned down by Paras. People can read Mr Adams's account and set it against the perspective offered by publications such as your own.

But in the end what matters most for all the people of both our islands is how we arrange our political relationships in the future to remove political violence, to rid ourselves of the 30,000 armed personnel in the pay of the British Government, and to rid ourselves of the irregular forces of the IRA, the UDA, the INLA and the UVF.

I have absolutely no apology to make for publishing the writings of Gerry Adams. On the contrary, I believe that they can contribute to understanding, just as censorship worked to frustrate understanding. I have come to know Gerry Adams quite well over the years and I know with certainty that his determination now is, as it has been for some years, to help to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Yours etc,  
STEVE MACDONOGH  
(Editorial Director),  
Brandon Book Publishers,  
Dingle, Co Kerry,  
October 14.

### Assisted places

From the National Director of the Independent Schools Information Service

Sir, Your readers should not be misled by the Shadow Education Secretary's claim that phasing out the assisted places scheme by a Labour government would "ensure 500,000 infants are in classes of 30 or under" (report, October 11).

In fact, the savings from phasing out the scheme would provide only one extra teacher between every eight state schools for five to seven-year-olds. Even that assumes the State would bear no extra cost in absorbing pupils who would have held assisted places in independent schools.

For this paltry gain a Labour government would scrap a scheme which, according to a recent MORI poll (report, September 28), is supported by 63 per cent of all voters and 55 per cent of Labour voters; only 21 per cent of the former and 27 per cent of the latter oppose it. Labour would limit paren-

tal choice, make independent schools more exclusive and deny educational opportunities to children of the less well-off.

We know assisted places benefit those for whom they are intended: the average annual income of parents in the scheme is £10,600. And we know they are a good investment: research this year indicates that assisted place pupils in independent schools do better by up to three A-level grades than their contemporaries of similar abilities in other schools.

Many people would support reducing class sizes as a contribution towards raising educational standards. But ending a scheme which benefits low income families whose children achieve academic excellence is not the way to do it.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID WOODHEAD,  
National Director,  
Independent Schools Information Service,  
56 Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
October 11.

### 'Easier' A levels

From the Headmaster of Ampleforth College

Sir, Good examination results are important for everyone now, but Mr Jonathan Carey is surely right in suggesting that evidence of achievement in later life would be a valuable insight (letter, October 10).

It would be difficult and also unfortunate to gather the facts in narrow financial terms; we are as proud of those who are tenting or working for the success of the weak as of our scholars, industrialists and financiers.

For a Christian, achievement is not to be measured simply in terms of social status or financial success. However, anecdotal evidence among Old

Amplefordians does suggest that some now prominent in business or professional life were distinctly not among the highest academic achievers, and it may be that they gained something else here which allowed them to grow in the confidence and wisdom which they have since successfully applied in their work.

An Abbot of Ampleforth was once asked what happened in later life to the denizens of the bottom form, then ungraciously called the Lower Remove. The Abbot replied that they generally employed the scholars.

Yours etc,  
LEO CHAMBERLAIN,  
Headmaster,  
Ampleforth College, York,  
October 12.

### Lords reform

From the Earl of Sandwich

Sir, Many will sympathise with Lord Cranborne's view ("Don't unbalance our unwritten constitution", October 11) that the House of Lords needs reform. But he is still unconvinced that it can be done effectively. The removal of the hereditary vote — whether or not it is spread over a generation — requires some alternative system of election or nomination, or the pack of cards will fall down. The question is whether the public demands a solution, or is reform merely a gimmick in the Labour manifesto?

My view is that some action needs to be taken before, not after, the next election. There must at least be new attendance rules because many peers stay away and the backwoodsmen have lost the Government all credibility. The Lords needs to have more le-

gitimacy and public confidence, but not "at the expense of the House of Commons", whose authority is bound to be undermined by both Labour and Liberal proposals for an elected second chamber.

It is an issue which deserves more urgent action from Parliament itself, including the hereditary peers. I believe there should be an all-party group in both houses working on the alternatives already put forward in various reports. One solution could be through extending the number of independent peers. Perhaps the bishops and members of the Armed Forces could be joined by nominees from the other professions, "elected" through an all-party group.

Yours sincerely,  
SANDWICH,  
Mapperton House,  
Beaminster, Dorset,  
October 12.

### Press complaints

From Mr James Buxton

Sir, Lord Wakeham's statement that "nobody would benefit from statutory controls [of press behaviour]" (letter, October 10; see also letters, October 14) ignores two points. First, that such controls would reduce the unacceptable high number of complaints to which he refers; and, secondly, that they have already been recommended by the independent Calcutt committee.

He may also care to reflect on the fact that his party introduced legislation to curb the power of the trade unions in the early 1980s. Despite the grave misgivings of politicians and others as to whether such legislation was appropriate, it has operated very effectively to curb that abuse of power.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. F. BUXTON,  
Gallowhill Manor,  
Yeovil, Somerset,  
October 10.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

### Lithuanian economy

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania

Sir, In her article on the current Baltic Arts '96 festival in London (Arts, October 8) Hilary Finch states that "all the [Lithuanian] banks have collapsed". In fact 11 Lithuanian national banks are operating at full capacity.

Ms Finch also refers to Lithuania as "the poorest of the three Baltic states" yet, according to Eurostat calculations, in 1994 the GDP per capita in Lithuania was the highest in the Baltic states at US \$3,771, and growth has been sustained in 1995 with a 3 per cent increase. Also, according to the Baltic News Service, it is not Lithuania who leads in the hard crime rate among the three Baltic states.

Finally, it is no secret that few artists around the world fully earn their living from their talents and many are forced to supplement their incomes by seeking outside employment, be it driving taxis or waiting at tables. Lithuania is no exception to this sad fact.

Yours sincerely,  
JUSTAS PALCEKIS,  
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania,  
84 Gloucester Place, W1,  
October 10.

### Censorship on the Elizabethan stage

From Professor Patrick Collinson

Sir, Your report (October 11) the discovery of a Privy Council letter of 1589, initiating state censorship of the Elizabethan theatre.

Your readers may like to know what this was about: not the general Zeigiste, as proposed by David Starkey of the LSE, nor Marlowe's *Tamburlaine*, as suggested by Dr Beal of Sotheby's, but a very particular and peculiar set of circumstances.

In 1588-89 the bishops of the Church of England were lampooned by the pseudonymous Martin Marprelate in a series of brilliant and seditious tracts. It was the bright idea of a clergyman called Richard Bancroft to employ the literary hacks of the day to respond in the same coin, not only in print but in jigs and, as it were, little pantomimes, in which Martin Marprelate was "lanced and wormed" in the public theatres.

These were the "certain matters of divinity... unfit to be suffered" of which the Council complained, and which Francis Bacon deplored in a veiled attack on Bancroft. However, Bancroft's career was not damaged, and in 1604 he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Yours etc,  
PAT COLLINSON,  
Trinity College, Cambridge,  
October 12.

### A matter of dates

From Mr Andrew Neil

Sir, I was pleased to learn from your interestingly-timed interview with Pamela Bordes (October 15) that she has now found respectable employment. You wrongly report, however, that I dated her in the summer of 1989. In fact it was the summer of 1988.

The scandal surrounding her broke in the *New Statesman* in February, 1989, almost six months after I had broken up with her. It follows that your caption under a picture of us together, which you say shows us "during the Commons scandal", is also wrong. By the time the story broke we had not met for several months — nor have we since.

I was also intrigued by the headline on your interview: "How I learnt to survive after the Andrew Neil affair". I'm grateful for the publicity but it is not my brief affair with me that she has had to overcome — which was a normal, if somewhat tempestuous, single man dates single girl arrangement — but the subsequent revelation that, unknown to me, she was a prostitute.

You will find all these matters accurately documented in my forthcoming book.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW F. NEIL,  
Hong Kong Parkview,  
Reservoir Road, Hong Kong,  
October 16.

### Testing times

From Mrs A. W. Jones

Sir, A postscript to Dr Farrer's letter (October 10): on Saturday, July 12, 1930, Bradman added 25 runs before being caught Duckworth, bowled Tate, for 334 and my sister and I saw it all happen — we were quite small but have never forgotten it.

How many of the other spectators on that day are still watching cricket (terrestrially)?

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA JONES,  
11 Guildford Avenue,  
Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire,  
October 10.

### Dim view

From Mr Alun Morgan

Sir, I am surprised that Mr Cuthbertson (letter, October 10) finds dim bedside lighting in hotels a recent phenomenon.

For many years I have considered a 100 watt bulb, together with a screwdriver, tin-opener, bottle-opener and corkscrew, to be an essential part of any hotel survival kit.

Yours sincerely,  
ALUN MORGAN,  
Nyth Affery,  
North Cliffe,  
Tenby, Pembrokeshire,  
October 10.

### Face-saving

From Major John FitzGerald

Sir, Mr Wake-Walker (letter, October 12; see also letter, October 15) is probably not old enough to remember those heady far-off days when one's face flannel (very much in the singular and clearly marked with a name tape) was almost a permanent document throughout one's early life.

He may not, therefore, be aware that prep school matrons used to round up every little boy's flannel about halfway through the term when they were beginning to pong and plunge them in a bucket of household ammonia for a few hours before rinsing and returning them to their owner's washroom cubby-hole in time for the evening wash.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FITZGERALD,  
68 Heworth Village, York,  
October 12.















## INSIDE SECTION

# 2

TODAY



## ARTS

Emily Watson's debut film is a dark masterpiece  
**PAGES 37-39**



## FOCUS

Festival that makes an art of fine wine and food  
**PAGES 45, 46**



## SPORT

Taking steps to avoid the crush on the dancefloor  
**PAGES 47-52**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
**PAGES 50, 51**

# Morgan Grenfell dismisses five senior executives

By Robert Miller

MORGAN GRENFELL, the troubled fund management house owned by Germany's Deutsche Bank, yesterday moved decisively to put the problems of the recent past behind it by dismissing five senior executives. All have left the firm and received pay-offs according to their basic contracts with any bonus entitlement stripped out.

The dismissals follow the conclusion of an internal investigation, carried out with assistance from Ernst & Young, the accountant, into irregularities in three Morgan Grenfell European unit trusts. Two of these funds were managed by Peter Young, who was dismissed for gross misconduct and who is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

The most senior victim of yesterday's purge was Keith Percy, the chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. As *The Times* reported on Monday, his replacement is Robert Smith, an insider who built up the development capital arm of the business from scratch since joining the group in 1989.

Mr Percy earned a total remuneration package last year of around £1.2 million, of which more than half was made up in bonuses. It is understood that under the basic terms of his contract he received less than £400,000 when he left the group.

Graham Kane, managing director of Morgan Grenfell's unit trust arm, has also left with a basic pay-off, understood to be less than £200,000. Mr Kane, who had stood aside as a director of Imro, the watchdog for fund managers which is investigating Morgan Grenfell and the role of a number of its senior executives in monitoring Mr Young's trading activities, is now expected to resign this post.

The other senior executives who have left Morgan Grenfell are Glen Owen, the chief investment officer for the firm's international funds, including those run by Mr Young, and Michael Wheatley, the compliance director. Paul Ebling, a senior associate director and compliance officer, has also left.

Commenting after the departures, Mr Smith said: "The initial internal investigation is largely complete and Morgan Grenfell Asset Management will continue to work with Imro and other regulators to resolve outstanding issues. If compensation is found to be due to investors under Imro rules and other legislation, we will pay it."

He continued: "As the business moves forward, the priority is to restore our reputation in the unit trust business."

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4024.4	(-26.4)
FTSE All Share	1975.89	(-10.29)
Nikkei	21397.19	(-32.7)
Dow Jones	8978.32	(-26.48)
S&P Composite	700.26	(-2.31)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	6.30%	(6.30%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Long term rate	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York	1.8848	(1.8879)
London	1.8848	(1.8879)
DM	2.3848	(2.3879)
FF	2.3848	(2.3879)
Yen	2.0058	(2.0050)
S Index	177.74	(177.72)

### DOUGLAS

London	1.5388	(1.5410)
DM	2.5033	(2.5060)
FF	1.2878	(1.2890)
Yen	112.16	(112.29)
S Index	85.7	(85.7)

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Brnt 16-day (Dec)	823.80	(824.10)
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### EURO

London close	2281.75	(2281.55)
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\* denotes midday trading price

# Fall in jobless level fuels fears on rates

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

A DRAMATIC fall in unemployment and a small rise in the growth of earnings seemed to point yesterday to a strengthening of the economy, and heighten City speculation that higher interest rates may be needed to head off inflationary pressures.

However, the Treasury played down such fears, arguing that average earnings growth is still very low compared with Britain's recent history, and that industry's costs and prices have fallen spectacularly.

Although the Treasury never comments directly on its attitude towards interest rates, the views expressed yesterday strongly suggest that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will continue to resist pressure from the Bank of England to tighten monetary policy.

After yesterday's figures, many in the City believe that the Bank's calls for higher rates may have been an official recommendation at the next monetary meeting on October 30.

Britain's headline unemployment total fell by 35,600 in September, a far larger fall than the City had expected and the largest decline in any month since December 1994. The claimant count now stands at a seasonally adjusted 2,073,10, its lowest level for more than five and a half years. Statisticians believe that the downward trend in unemployment has accelerated and that the claimant count is set to fall by between

15,000 and 20,000 each month. This clearly holds out the welcome prospect for the Government of a fall in unemployment below the 2 million mark by the general election.

The rate of unemployment fell by 0.1 per cent from the previous month, to 7.4 per cent, the lowest it has been since March 1991 when it stood at 7.3 per cent.

Less encouraging was news that average earnings growth in July has been revised up, from 3.75 per cent to 4 per cent, and continued at that rate in August. Many City economists argued that this is sure evidence that the labour market is tightening as unemployment falls, and that there is a risk of higher inflation unless interest rates are raised.

Martin Brooks of Goldman Sachs said: "These trends are likely to make the Bank of England increasingly concerned about a build-up of inflationary pressures and more uncomfortable with base rates at 5.75 per cent." In spite of this, he and many others believe that Mr Clarke will not oblige.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at the Midland Bank, still holds out the possibility of one more cut in interest rates before the election. He, like the Treasury, cites as his reasons very good producer prices, an evident slowing in retail sales growth, the fact that manufacturing is only just emerging from a long period of stagnation, and sterling's strength.

He said: "Manufacturing has seen no growth over the last year and is already having to grapple with a rising pound. How deeply distressing to contemplate higher interest rates on top of that."

Separate figures published yesterday showed that the Government borrowed a larger-than-expected £3.4 billion in September. This took the cumulative public sector borrowing requirement in the first six months of the financial year to £16.1 billion, compared with £20.1 billion at the same stage last year.

In spite of the possibility that the Chancellor's PSBR projection of £27 billion for the full year will be overshoot, the City believes that political exigencies will mean that Mr Clarke still goes ahead with a package of tax cuts in next month's Budget.



John Clark after his High Court award yesterday

# Ousted BET chief wins £3m in High Court

By Jon Ashworth

JOHN CLARK, ousted as chief executive of BET, the business services group, after its takeover by Rentokil earlier this year, was yesterday awarded more than £3 million in compensation in the High Court.

Mr Clark, 55, who had been willing to settle out of court for £1 million, said he was delighted with the ruling, which is expected to influence future cases involving executive pay.

Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, was among witnesses to speak for Mr Clark in the High Court case, which leaves Rentokil facing costs estimated at £600,000. Lord Tebbit, a former non-executive director of BET, said that Mr Clark's contract and remuneration had been fairly set, given the near-bankrupt state of BET when he was brought in to turn it round in 1991.

The case is being described as the most important to deal with matters of modern executive pay in more than a decade. Mr Clark, an American, said that he regretted that the matter had come to court. He said: "I normally seek to resolve such matters in a private and mature manner."

Mr Clark had a three-year rolling contract — unfashionable under current thinking on boardroom pay. In his case, it was argued, the security of a three-year contract was merited, given the size of his task of shaking up BET.

Mr Clark's package could have topped £5 million, but he lost a claim to £2.1 million in share options. Mr Justice Timothy Walker's award to Mr Clark was for loss of his £490,000 salary — including increases — during the three-year notice period, plus damages for loss of pension rights, bonus payments of 50 per cent of salary, an executive car and chauffeur, health insurance and holiday entitlement.

Mr Clark, described by the judge as "an extremely able, energetic and successful businessman", was head-hunted by BET in 1991, and transformed the group's fortunes. The judge rejected BET suggestions that Mr Clark had now "decided to retire", and accepted evidence that appointments for over-55s are rare.

Rentokil said that it would appeal against the award. A spokesman said that it had been willing to settle with Mr Clark for £950,000.

Pennington, page 29

# £2.9m pension for ex-Wickes chief

By Sarah Cunningham

HENRY SWEETBAUM is to draw his pension from a £2.9 million pension scheme fully funded by Wickes in spite of being held responsible by the DIY retailer for a £51 million overstatement of profits.

Mr Sweetbaum, former chairman and chief executive, denies knowledge of the practices that led to the overstatement and the company, which says he had "ultimate responsibility", is to make no claim against him or any other directors.

He has agreed to repay £720,000 netted under a long-term incentive scheme in 1994 and 1995. He has also agreed to waive any claim to a further £885,000 gross that he is due under the scheme. He is to retain his pension benefits, which should bring in about £175,000 per year, however.

Wickes may make claims against some members of its buying department. Bonuses were paid to some of the department's managers "on the basis of incorrect information," the company said in a letter to shareholders yesterday.

Les Rosenthal, group trading director and Chris Miles, commercial director, resigned from the company without compensation in August. Fur-

# Children of DFS chief to sell £100m share stake

By Sarah Cunningham

THE SON and daughter of Sir Graham Kirkham, chairman of DFS, the furniture retailer, are set to make up to £100 million by selling shares in the company.

Julie Cross, 30, Sir Graham's daughter, and Michael Kirkham, 29, his son, between them hold a 22 per cent share in the Doncaster-based company but they are not involved in its running and intend to sell "a significant proportion" of their holdings.

Sir Graham said his children were selling because they wanted a "broader investment portfolio". He denied that

there had been any family split and said: "I can understand where they are coming from. If they feel it is right to sell now, then I want to support them." They will eventually inherit his 8 per cent holding in the company, he added.

Sir Graham, who is an avid collector of paintings, was knighted in the New Year's Honours List. He was widely reported to have made a £4 million loan to the Conservative party, but last month said it was his son who made the loan.

Mrs Cross lives in South

Yorkshire and has two small children, the youngest born just a month ago. She was formerly a producer at Yorkshire Television and her husband works in the computer industry. Michael Kirkham, who is also married but has no children, lives in Ireland and works there for a young people's charity. Sir Graham described his children yesterday as "normal, down to earth, straightforward people."

DFS also announced yesterday that it will pay a 10p per share special dividend from an 18.6 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £31.1 million. Earnings per share in the year ended July 27 were up 18.6 per cent to 19.66p and the full-year dividend has been increased 20.5 per cent to 10p per share. The final dividend of 6.9p (5.65p) is payable on December 13. The special dividend is payable on November 18.

Sir Graham said DFS's move into the South East has been very successful, with all three stores opened in the summer in the London area exceeding sales targets.



Sir Graham Kirkham reported profits up 18.6 per cent

## MORTGAGES FOR DIRECTORS & THE SELF EMPLOYED

THE MORTGAGE was once just a way of buying your home. Today it is becoming a multi-purpose financial account that can be used for everything from buying a new car to paying for summer holidays.

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For the life you don't yet know



## US bank credits London influence

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

GOLDMAN SACHS, the last investment banking partnership on Wall Street, has chosen nearly one quarter of its new partners and managing directors from its London office, reflecting the growing importance of overseas operations to its profits.

The firm appointed nine of its 38 new partners, and 22 out of 87 "extended" managing directors, from London, in the two-year ritual that hands out some of the most coveted positions in investment banking.

The managing directors are a new level of pseudo-partners created this year to stem the flood of employees departing for high-paid jobs at rival banks. The position is intended to reassure the firm's brightest employees that they are valued employees.

Goldman was originally planning to appoint only about 60 of the new managing directors but intense competition from about 300 candidates pushed up the numbers to more than 80. They will get better pay and perks and a share of the firm's profits.

However, Goldman's emphasis that not all managing directors would necessarily make it to full partnership status.

The partnership appointments in London reflect the overall distribution of this year's appointments, the majority of which came in Goldman's profitable investment banking division.

Timothy Plaut, Muncie Satter, Howard Schiller and Glenn Earle — who is returning from Frankfurt — all work in investment banking. Erland Karlsson and Erland Reddy work in the equity division, while Ronald Marks works in fixed income. Geoffrey Grant comes from the commodities and foreign exchange division and Paul Deighton works in the administration division.



Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, left, with Jean Arthuis, Finance Minister, and Franck Borotra, Industry Minister, yesterday

## French choose Lagardère over Alcatel-Alsthom for Thomson

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

THE French Government yesterday paved the way for a big upheaval in the European defence industry when it announced the sale of Thomson, its troubled electronics combine, to Lagardère Groupe.

The Government preferred a bid from Lagardère to an offer from Alcatel-Alsthom, but would have to inject Fr11 billion into the company before privatisation because of its precarious financial position.

Lagardère will integrate Thomson's defence arm, Thomson CSF, into its own subsidiary, Matra Défense Espace, to form the world's third largest defence-electronics group, Matra-Thomson.

Thomson's consumer electronics subsidiary, Thomson Multimedia, will be taken over by Daewoo Electronics, the South Korean firm, which could become the world's biggest television manufacturer.

Lagardère will pay a symbolic Fr1 for Thomson after beating off a rival bid from Alcatel, the telecommunications group. The battle, which has been played out behind closed doors in Jacques Chirac's Presidential palace, gave rise to criticism and controversy.

The way in which the President has taken this decision, alone in his office, has created a certain malaise, *Le Monde* said in an editorial. Concern

had been fuelled by the French Government's plans to recapitalise Thomson, which has debts of Fr25 billion, with a cash-injection of Fr1 billion.

British Aerospace and GEC are among the firms likely to be affected. Thomson's missile operation will be incorporated into Matra's existing joint venture with BAE, while Thomson's airborne radar business is likely to be linked with GEC.

However, President Chirac

vetted Lagardère's plans for BAE to take a 15 per cent stake in Matra-Thomson, insisting that its participation be limited to less than 3 per cent. GEC will probably be invited to take a similarly marginal holding in the new company, the French press said.

Although M Chirac says Matra-Thomson should become a European "defence champion", he wants it to stay overwhelmingly French. Only once its Gallic ownership is secure will it be allowed to develop joint ventures with other European groups.

The French Government chose Lagardère against the expectations of most analysts because it believes the new company can become a "pole" of the French defence industry, the source said. Charles Millon, the French Defence Minister, said: "Matra-Thomson will be able to face up to international competition."

Tempos, page 30

## Cables watchdog says 'co-operate'

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

DON CRUICKSHANK, the telecoms regulator, has urged the cable industry to consolidate. In a move that breaks ranks with the heads of regulated industries, who generally advocate a diversity of players to encourage

competition, he urged co-operation between cable companies.

Yesterday, Mr Cruickshank told the European Cable Communications conference: "It might seem a bit strange that the head of a competition authority should be urging operators to co-operate rather

than to compete. You are individually competing with dominant companies, but not against each other, across most of your business objectives."

However, merger talks between Telewest and Nynex CableComms, the two largest cable groups, appear to have

broken down. Neither would comment on the talks yesterday, which are believed to have been halted in the past few days.

However, Nynex is committed to the belief that the industry must consolidate. It is thought the company is in talks with other cable groups.

## Germany's ways can aid us, says CBI chief

BY OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH companies must embrace many more aspects of the German model of capitalism to remain competitive, Adam Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said yesterday.

Mr Turner said the UK must focus on the long-term investment and specialised training that made Germany Europe's most successful economy.

He told an Anglo-German business conference organised by Robert Fleming, the investment bank, that British businessmen should not be afraid of inheriting Germany's high wage level, associated with the EU Social Charter. "Germany does have high wages," he said. "But high wages are a sign of success, not failure."

Mr Turner argued that British business can take a long-term view, and said: "Look at British Biotech. It has a market capitalisation of £1.5 billion and not a penny of profit so far: that is either a very long-term investment or completely mad."

Mr Turner's views were endorsed by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank, and David Sainsbury, chairman of J Sainsbury.

Mr Taylor said: "Germany is rapidly moving in the direction of flexibility, while the challenge for Britain is to attain a higher level of skills. In this country, training is what government blames business for not doing, and education is what business blames government for not doing."

City Diary, page 31

## Reform put forward for property valuations

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES would no longer be able to carry properties indefinitely at original cost in their balance sheets under new proposals from the Accounting Standards Board. This would end the widespread practice of assuming that new buildings have an indefinite life or that any wear and tear is offset by rising market values.

This practice has been widely attacked since the property slump and the trend fall in inflation. Most supermarket groups have started depreciating out-of-town supermarkets built on land with limited alternative uses. Shares in some brewery and hotel groups have already dipped in anticipation of the proposals.

Measurement of Tangible Fixed Assets, the board's latest discussion paper, offers companies the choice of carrying assets at cost less an annual depreciation charge or revaluing them regularly: by outside professionals at least every five years and through systematic adjustments in between. All assets of the same class would have to be treated the same way. Investment properties may be treated differently. Since they must be carried at market values, depreciation need not be charged.

Sir David Tweedie, ASB chairman, said: "Companies that revalued... at the height of the property boom have since been able to leave this valuation in their accounts."

Graham Searjeant, page 31  
Accountancy, page 32

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.10	1.94	Malta	0.616	0.681
Austria Sch	18.13	16.88	Netherlands Gld	2.852	2.922
Belgium Fr	53.31	49.01	New Zealand \$	2.42	2.20
Canada \$	0.725	0.685	Portugal Esc	207.50	19.00
Cyprus Cyp	0.725	0.685	Spain Ptas	166.64	150.00
Denmark Kr	9.83	9.13	S Africa Rd	7.78	6.98
Finland Mk	7.88	7.21	Switzerland Fr	2.14	1.96
France Fr	6.85	6.20	Turkey Lira	151.80	143.00
Germany DM	2.367	2.287	USA \$	1.684	1.564
Greece Dr	397	372			
Hong Kong \$	12.80	11.80			
Ireland P	1.16	1.05			
Italy Lit	2.549	2.380			
Japan Yen	192.10	176.10			

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Inntrepreneur faces group writ on beer

SOLICITORS representing aggrieved tenants of Inntrepreneur Pub Company said yesterday that they could be just weeks away from filing a group action against the company in the continuing dispute over tied beer. Mark Barron, of Taylor Wilcocks, said the firm was close to putting together a group action on behalf of about 80 clients. Charles Russell, another firm of solicitors, confirmed yesterday that it has issued writs and counterclaims on behalf of an unspecified number. The cases are hanging on a decision by the European Commission over Inntrepreneur's application for an exemption for its leases from competition rules.

Inntrepreneur, owned by Grand Metropolitan and Foster's Brewing Group, confirmed that it had received 114 writs, less than 4 per cent of its estate. It said it had no knowledge of any group action, and did not intend to make any extra provision for legal action in its accounts for the year to September.

### Oil price held above \$25

TENSION between Iraq and Iran and worries about low levels of US heating oil stocks as winter approaches kept the price of Brent North Sea oil above \$25 yesterday. On Tuesday, prices had risen to \$25.06 per barrel, the highest since the Gulf War in 1991, before retreating on profit-taking. The fall of reserves, which have been cut to a bare minimum at a number of refineries, means that refineries will have to step up crude purchases throughout the winter season in the northern hemisphere.

### Flotation expert dies

THE City has lost one of its most senior and respected figures with the death yesterday of Nick Verrey, a managing director of SBC Warburg. Mr Verrey, 53, who died from leukaemia, joined the old Rowe & Pitman in 1961 as a stockbroker and moved with the Warburg merger in 1986 and again last year with the SBC takeover. A Stock Exchange director, he was noted for his expertise in flotations such as Abbey National, BA and most recently, Railtrack. He leaves a widow, Dinah, a son, Dickon, 21, and a daughter, Georgia, 17.

### BT takes legal action

BRITISH TELECOM and Viag, its German partner, have launched legal proceedings in Germany against Global One, alleging breach of European competition rules. Global One created to provide worldwide telecom services to corporate customers — is a joint venture between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint of America. BT said Global was given EU clearance on condition that its competitors can obtain supplies from two operators in addition to Deutsche and France but that licences had yet to be granted in France and Germany.

### Police urge jury review

THE Commissioner of the City of London Police has added his voice to that of George Staple, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, in arguing for a review of the role of juries in the most complex fraud trials. William Taylor, calling for research, told a National Fraud Forum conference: "The concept of a judge and assessors for a few types of fraud should be re-visited." He added: "Tampering with, let alone dismantling, our trials by jury is sensitive and controversial, but not the huge philosophical issue that it is sometimes painted."

### Sears, Roebuck up 22%

SEARS, Roebuck & Co. one of America's biggest retailers, increased third-quarter earnings by 22 per cent, from \$228 million to a record \$279 million. Sales rose to \$9.07 billion from \$8.44 billion. Arthur Martinez, chairman and chief executive, said: "Customers have responded enthusiastically to our department store renovations, broader assortments and quality brands, especially in apparel, and are heavily shopping our off-the-shelf stores." International operations, comprising stores in Canada and Mexico, lost \$13 million (\$7 million).

### TUC attacks dole move

THE TUC yesterday called the new jobseeker's allowance a "rip-off" and demanded its withdrawal. John Monks, General Secretary, said that workers paid National Insurance contributions to earn a right to a year's unemployment benefit, but the new allowance would last only six months. "Something our members have paid for is being stolen," he told the national conference of the TUC Unemployed Workers Centres. The allowance should be withdrawn, restoring the right to 12 months' contributory benefit for unemployed workers, he said.

### Chepstow in good form

CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE, the horserace meeting organiser, saw interim profits gallop ahead to £100,139 (£16,944) before tax over the six months to June 30. But the company said the comparison was distorted by the poor summer weather last year, which saw two of the ten scheduled meetings abandoned, and pointed to the £96,598 it made in the first half of 1994. "From this you will appreciate that forecasting for a full year is far from an exact science," the company said. There is still no interim dividend, against earnings per share up to 18.3p (3.4p).

### Select buys Dutch firm

SELECT APPOINTMENTS (Holdings), the UK temporary staff and recruitment company, has acquired Staff Planning, a group of four personnel agencies based in The Netherlands, for £8.1 million. The acquisition follows Select's purchase of Skillco Human Resources Management, another Dutch business, earlier this month. Staff Planning earned pre-tax profits of £1.12 million on turnover of £10.03 million in 1995; the company's net assets were £1.86 million at December 31.

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□ Not all sacked executives deserve a payoff □ Fraud squads prepare for business □ Restaurant chain rakes in the dough

# Limited liability bosses

GO INTO your boss's office and punch him or her, hard, on the nose. Go on, do it. Then see if you get a year's money or a quick election by a security gorilla. This is because your behaviour constitutes a sacking offence.

Now go and lose a couple of hundred million of your boss's money. Again, the sack beckons, and you may be lucky to avoid a few years inside. Don't hang around too long arguing about compensation either. But if you happen to be in charge of the department where those millions were lost, you are in a different category, it seems. Defeat in a fiercely contested takeover bid might also not be the disaster it at first seems.

Let us go back to basic principles. The sack is the sack: compensation for loss of office is quite different. The two can be simply distinguished by the concept of blame. Those 11 fund managers from Barclays who got the bullet earlier this week were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Their jobs disappeared, but no blame attached to them, so they were compensated with an average of a year's money each.

The five men thrown out of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management yesterday went because a subordinate dropped a few hundred million. He has already been dismissed. They received

compensation, in the form of their contracts being paid off. But blame should attach to them for two reasons.

For the first, one might borrow the legal concept of strict liability: some criminal offences are such that there is no need to prove any intent to commit them; their mere commission is enough for prosecution. Some offences at work, too: being in charge of a department where so serious an error takes place means some blame attaches to you. Ditto for the compliance officer, in charge of internal policing.

The second reason has to do with what the five should have known. Everyone in fund management knew that Peter Young, the man who actually dropped all those millions, was a high-flyer who appeared able to bring in amazing returns from unpromising raw material. Such a man should have been watched far more carefully than the run-of-the-mill fund manager, the blame attaches to the five because he wasn't.

There is not much to be said about the £3 million that went to former BET boss John Clark,

first because this was awarded by a High Court judge, and anyway, his lawyers are already upset about what appeared in this column on the subject yesterday. Henry Sweetbaum of Wickes is having his pension paid in full, but he is handing back some earlier bonuses, so this probably constitutes a draw.

The worry is that the City, particularly in cases such as Morgan Grenfell and Barings, is blurring the distinction between loss of office for cause, that is the sack, and the just rewards for years of service terminated without fault. The high salaries enjoyed by the Morgan Grenfell five carried with them high responsibilities, and there should be no compensation for a failure to discharge those responsibilities properly.

This is important because of the growing disquiet about high City pay, in the light of Mary Walz, the former Barings director claiming a £500,000 bonus, and those new millionaires at Goldman Sachs. We must make a distinction between high pay in return for and dependent on future performance and hush



money for those who have already failed. If we do not, the danger is that the deserving former are vilified along with the undeserving latter.

## Predicting the next Maxwell

I WOULD not wish to make anyone unduly nervous, but Britain's fraud squads are quietly gearing up for a busy period. Everyone knows that a new wave of corporate fraud is coming, but no one is quite sure when. The argument runs thus. There are plenty of entrepreneurs out there who have pledged all their shares to the banks at current values against

their debts. Any short-term correction for the stock market, and the value of the shares becomes less than the value of the loans. The banks want their money back. Companies go bust. The receivers sift through the wreckage, and a fresh batch of rogues is flushed out.

Witness the last round of disasters: Polly Peck, Maxwell, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Many frauds rely on circular flows of money — sums spiralling round a "black hole" of ever-increasing proportions. BCCI was the classic example: monies shuffling around between New York, London, and the Caymans. But it need not involve billions. Wallace Duncan Smith, a relatively unknown City merchant banker, succeeded in running up debts of £100 million before he was rumoured. It took the recession to expose him.

Predicting the next Maxwell is more difficult, although potential Cap'n Bobs are undoubtedly out there. One enduring theme is the personality involved: arrogant, supremely self-confident, and fond of luxury. There are plenty

of those in business and the City, and a recession would see some floundering. Not all of them know how to swim either.

## Piling it high on PizzaExpress price

THE genius who worked out that a flat slab of dough, a smear of tomato paste and a scattering of dried-up cheese, pepper and salami could be sold as a square meal deserves a place in catering history. From this beginning grew a monstrous regiment of pizza parlours, among them one of the stock market successes of the decade.

The share price chart of PizzaExpress is as sharp as its products are flat. A placing took place at 40p in early 1993; yesterday, investors' appetites were still sharp for another round of shares at 47.5p. This placing and expansion will take the group to 120 outlets, as against 250 to 300 before the market is saturated.

The share price performance has little to do with the merits of the menu or even strict financial

criteria. Investors, a quarter of them American, have been betting on two things, the track record of Luke Johnson, the whiz-kid chairman, and the belief that he will one day lose interest and sell out.

Each PizzaExpress branch is now valued by the stock market at more than £2 million apiece, extraordinarily high for leasehold properties, but then, look at some of the daft prices being paid for businesses such as Café Pelican, and the Tom Cobleigh pub chain this autumn. Further expansion, once that saturation point is reached, would be either on the Continent or into another restaurant or pub brand, both of them distinctly untested markets. More likely, Mr Johnson will find a buyer well before this.

## Institutional power

NOW the dust has settled on the Refuge-United Friendly merger, shareholders in the former owe a vote of thanks to the three institutions, led by Perpetual, that threw a handful of grit into the works before the initial terms could be agreed. The technical issue of orphan assets was way above the heads of most investors, who would probably have voted the deal through. Instead, the right set of shareholders will at least benefit from any eventual value.



Sir Roger Hurn, left, with Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, who is to take over as chief executive next month

# Smiths favours US over Europe for defence

By PAUL DURMAN

SIR ROGER HURN, chairman and chief executive of Smiths Industries, yesterday expressed doubts that the shake-up of the European defence and aerospace industries would produce a champion capable of challenging the leading American companies.

With a stock market value of more than £2.3 billion, Smiths is big enough to strengthen its aerospace business by taking over one of Europe's poorly performing, state-owned defence companies. However, Sir Roger believes that Smiths is likely to find "more interesting and perhaps more realistic" opportunities in the US.

He said that consolidation in Europe was "fraught with

very serious territorial and political differences". He was sceptical about the prospects of a successful outcome. Smiths, which also has businesses in medical instruments and ventilation, was reporting annual pre-tax profits of £165 million, a 19 per cent increase. Sir Roger, who will end 15 years as chief executive next month, when he hands over to Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, said: "We had a superb year. All three of our business groups improved their profits."

Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 36.6p. A final dividend of 10.6p, to be paid on January 8, will lift the total payout to 16.2p, up 12.5 per cent. Smiths is upbeat about

prospects. It is benefiting from a strong revival in orders for new aircraft. Smiths makes several hundred thousand pounds worth of instrumentation for each of Boeing's 737s and 777s.

The group's sales grew 12 per cent to just over £1 billion. Helped by acquisitions, the industrial division, which includes Vent-Axia fans, increased profits 32 per cent to £49.7 million. Medical systems increased profits 16 per cent to £73.1 million, with margins rising to 24 per cent. The aerospace arm made £45.3 million, a 12 per cent rise.

Nick Cunningham, a BZW analyst, described the results as "outstandingly good, as

expected". The City expects Smiths to make more than £190 million this year.

Sir Roger will continue as Smiths's chairman but he insisted that Mr Butler-Wheelhouse "will be the boss and I won't be". Sir Roger is already a non-executive director of ICI and Glaxo Wellcome, but he expects Smiths to remain his principal business activity.

Sir Roger said: "Last year was not a flash in the pan, any more than any of the previous years have been. I have confidence for the future growth in sales, profits, earnings per share and dividends in the years ahead."

Tempus, page 30

## Time Warner loses \$91m in third quarter

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

TIME WARNER, the world's biggest media group, reported a \$91 million loss for the third quarter, days after it completed its merger with Turner Broadcasting Systems, the cable television company.

The loss, which compared with net losses of \$141 million last year, resulted mainly from large interest payments on massive outstanding debt. Losses for the first nine months of the year amount to \$250 million. However, Time Warner said that its underlying operations had improved, with earnings before interest and tax rising by 32 per cent to \$964 million.

Gerald Levin, chairman, said Time Warner must reduce its huge debt burden.

## Bigger slice for PizzaExpress

By NOEL FUNG

PIZZAEXPRESS is to raise £25.5 million through a share placing to finance the purchase of 33 restaurants, enlarging its pool of company-owned restaurants.

The outlets, comprising 32 PizzaExpress franchised restaurants and an independent restaurant in London, are expected to bring in £20 million in turnover and £4 million in operating profit.

About 5.68 million new shares will be placed with investors in Britain and America at 47.5p a share, a 10 per cent discount to yesterday's closing price of 52.25p.

The acquisition will increase PizzaExpress's company-owned restaurants to 120. Company-owned restaurants enjoy a higher profit margin in excess of 20 per cent, whereas the franchised ones yield only 4 per cent of turnover as royalty

income to PizzaExpress. The number is still a far from the company's target of 250 to 300 in the UK. It plans to open 25 new company-owned restaurants each year and will expand its overseas coverage through franchising.

In 1993, the company decided to curtail the opening of new franchised restaurants in favour of company-owned ones and the latest purchase reinforces this strategy.

The chain's successful formula helped to boost its annual pre-tax profit to £10.2 million in the year to June, a 54 per cent improvement on the previous year. This is the second time since its February 1993 flotation that it has raised funds. It raised £3.5 million in September 1995 through an institutional placing.

Pennington, this page

## Wellington merger shareout

WELLINGTON Underwriting, the largest managing agency at Lloyd's of London, has confirmed details of its planned merger with Wellington Underwriting Holdings (WU Holdings), supplier of underwriting capital to Wellington syndicates (Jon Ashworth writes).

WU Holdings shareholders will receive 36.6 million new shares, about 55 per cent of the enlarged Wellington capital. They will also be entitled to deferred consideration linked to the extent to which the enlarged group exceeds earnings targets. Conditional on the offer, shareholders are expected to receive a 4p interim per Wellington share. A second interim of 27p per WU Holdings share will be paid to WU Holdings holders.

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## Record \$686m for Ford

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

FORD, America's second largest carmaker, nearly doubled its profits in the third quarter to a record \$686 million as buoyant US conditions offset deepening losses in Europe.

Losses on Ford UK and European operations grew from \$320 million to \$472 million, making by far the biggest contribution to the overall loss from overseas operations of \$619 million.

The company said that new product development, such as the Ka small car that goes on sale next month, and high marketing costs in Europe had been largely to blame for the loss. Most product launches were now completed and the company could now concentrate on cutting costs in its mass-making operations.

The profit result is a 92 per cent rise on the \$357 million earned by the company in the comparable period last year.

On Tuesday, General Motors, the largest carmaker, reported that profits had tripled to \$1.3 billion.

## Sales boost at WH Smith

By KEITH RODGERS



Hardie addressed investors

SHARES in WH Smith climbed 19p to 47.4p yesterday after the company reported a 4 per cent increase in sales for the four months to September 30.

However, some analysts remained cautious about longer-term prospects, with one suggesting that the recovery could take longer than expected.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman, told the annual meeting that like-for-like sales, excluding new stores, had increased 3 per cent. Weak markets affected music and video sales, but

sales in other categories climbed 5 per cent. In August, WH Smith recorded a loss of £194.7 million for the year to June 1.

Sales at WH Smith Retail rose 2 per cent, while sales at Waterstone's increased 15 per cent. The company's US hotels and airports operation showed a 14 per cent rise.

Mr Hardie said performance was in line with expectations. Analysts are forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of between £115 and £130 million.

## Jobs lost in Alexandra closure

By KEITH RODGERS

ALEXANDRA Workwear, the supplier of workplace uniforms, is to close one of its factories in Scotland with the loss of up to 250 jobs as part of a £4 million restructuring.

The company reported a £724,000 pre-tax loss for the 28 weeks to August 17, against a £27 million profit the previous year, after incurring disposal costs of £508,000 and an

exceptional cost of £2.5 million to cover the manufacturing reorganisation. The job cuts are to be by natural wastage over the next two years, after which the Coatbridge factory operations, currently employing 900 people, will be merged into the Bothwell Park site near Glasgow.

Alexandra said it will also incur a £1 million exceptional

cost in the coming 12 months as it diversifies product sourcing, reappraises product strategy and extends its European distributor network.

Trading profit before exceptional items fell from £2.9 million to £2.4 million, on turnover virtually static at £35.4 million. The interim dividend, payable on December 6, is unchanged at 2.5p.



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Allied Domecq action revives talk of bid



Fitness First made an impressive debut on AIM

MORE than £260 million was added to the stock market value of Allied Domecq as the share price surged off recent weakness to end the session 25½p higher at 482½p.

By the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands in a market where traders will normally quote a price in 50,000 shares at a time. Once again, this has led to revived talk about a bid for the company from Seagrams, the giant North American drinks group. But much of the action in the shares appeared to be taking place on the traded options market before the expiry of the October series.

Brokers reported plenty of activity in the January 500p series where 1,350 contracts, equivalent to 1.3 million shares, were completed. It is believed much of the demand stemmed from investors rolling over their positions from the open-ended October 460p series where 141 contracts were recorded.

It may be that some City speculators are pinning their hopes on a bid from Seagrams emerging before too long. It could also be that some fund managers see better times ahead for the group. The shares have been under a cloud of late trading well below their year's high of 556p, as the group attempts to complete its restructuring.

The rest of the equity market ran into the buffers as shares came off the boil after their recent record-breaking run. Market-makers called prices lower from the outset as they tried to square their positions before this week's options expiry. There was little genuine selling pressure, just light profit-taking, and this was reflected in the low volume of 649 million shares.

The FT-SE 100 index was further unsettled by the latest unemployment numbers and average earnings. It finished just above its low for the day in spite of another early fall by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. The FT-SE 100 closed down 26.4 points at 4,024.4.

Tate & Lyle fell 13½p to 483½p with the group facing an investigation by US authorities into corn syrup prices. Cadbury Schweppes was another weak market, losing 2½p to 520½p on the back of this week's figures from Coca-Cola showing disappointing volume in Europe. Cadbury, at

present, continues to battle and distribute Coca-Cola products. Revived talk of a bid from Nestlé boosted Dalgely up to 316½p.

A positive trading statement from WH Smith gave the shares a much needed boost with a rise of 19p to 474½p. The group has been busy restructuring its business and reports that its performance so

far is up to expectations. Sales were up 4 per cent in the first four months of the year to September.

Brokers gave a warm reception to full-year figures from Smiths Industries, the aerospace and medical products group, after weighing in with pre-tax profits up from £138 million to £170.4 million. The price rose 12p to 303½p.

British Aerospace rose 19p to 1,113½p, expecting to benefit from a missiles joint venture with Lagardere, the French defence group. But the move would be bad news for GEC, which is linked to CSF Thompson. GEC fell 11½p to 386½p.

Prudential Corporation fell 9p to 474½p in spite of publishing an impressive set of new business figures. Full-

year figures in line with expectations and news of continuing expansion plans at DFS Furniture failed to cut much ice with the City, leaving the price 22½p lower on the day at 514½p. The price was undermined by the news that Sir Graham Kirkham's children are thinking of selling a significant proportion of their 22 per cent stake in the company.

Fitness First, the health club operator, made an impressive debut on the Alternative Investment Market after a placing by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, at 80p. The shares started at 89½p and touched 92½p before ending the day at 90½p.

Bridport Gundry rose 7p to 149½p as it succeeded overnight in doubling the size of its stock market capitalisation to about £15 million. It has made no less than three acquisitions financed by a three-for-four rights issue at 130p intended to raise £10 million. Last year the group raised pre-tax profits from £1.3 million to £1.45 million.

The news that Alexander Workwear had plunged into the red at the half-year stage with losses of £724,000, compared with a surplus of £2.7 million for the corresponding period, left the shares 15p lower at 105½p. Innovative Technology seemed unruffled by news of increased losses, with the price jumping 10p to 156½p as it made encouraging noises about prospects.

Reduced losses at Blockleys, the building materials group, failed to do much for the price, which eased 1½p to 49p. The group said the period to June was the worst ever experienced by the brick industry.

Hard on the heels of disappointing figures this week from Highland Distilleries, up 3½p to 324½p, comes news of another disaster finding the going difficult. Burn Stewart Distillers saw pre-tax profits fall from £3.95 million to £1.01 million. The shares fell 7½p to 74p.

GIIT-EDGED: Falls of more than 10p were recorded among longer dated issues as the market followed the lead of other overseas bond markets. The subsequent fall in unemployment and the higher than expected average earnings only served to accelerate the losses. The December series of the long gilt tumbled £1½ to finish at £109½, as a total of 117,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £1½ to £101½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £103½, worse off at £103½.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were weak in early trading as the market adjusted to a rally that had taken the Dow Jones industrial average over 6,000. At midday, the index was down 26.46 points to 5,978.32.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	5978.32 (-26.46)
S&P Composite	701.26 (-2.31)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	21,397.19 (-32.74)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	12,966.18 (-14.52)
Amsterdam	
EOE Index	990.48 (-1.97)
Sydney	
ASX	2265.0 (-1.2)
Frankfurt	
DAX	2714.40 (-13.55)
Singapore	
SEAC	2071.16 (-0.78)
Brussels	
General	9895.46 (+14.84)
Paris	
CAC-40	21,582.52 (-0.74)
Zurich	
SEA Gen	790.60 (-1.45)
London	
FT 30	2855.6 (-1.05)
FT 100	4024.4 (-26.4)
FTSE 250	4436.2 (-1.7)
FTSE 350	2002.0 (-1.3)
FTSE EuroStoxx 100	1769.99 (-1.45)
FT All-Share	1975.89 (-0.29)
FT Non-Financials	2070.17 (-0.49)
FT Financials	116.15 (-0.4)
FT Govt Stocks	942.9 (+0.50)
Markets	
SEAC Volume	984.8M
US\$ (Dollars)	303.04 (+0.58)
US\$	1.5846 (+0.0023)
German Mark	2.4846 (+0.0008)
Exchange Index (Apr)	81.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate	1.0000
ECU	1.2888
ESDR	153.6 Sep (2.1%) Jan 1997 (1.0%)
REPR	153.6 Sep (2.9%) Jan 1997 (1.0%)

## RECENT ISSUES

AEA Technology	333½	-
Airtel	75	...
Brunner Mond	170	...
Charles Taylor	161½	...
Deleco	160	...
Electrical	185½	-
Eurostar	315	...
Fitness First	90½	...
GT Chile Group	256½	-
Grosvener Land	154	...
Harsco	120	...
Imperial Tobacco	386	-
Internet Tech	60½	...
Interstate Tele	167½	...
Lavendon	157½	...
Mears Group	12½	...
Oriental Keston	205½	...
Personal Number	69½	...
Polydor	139½	...
Shalimar	171½	...
Thistle Hotels (170)	299½	-
Ultra Electronics	299½	-
Weeks Group	7½	...

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Prism Rail n/p (240) 125 + 5

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Haynes Pub	307½ (+20p)
Tottenham Hot	489½ (+27p)
Smith WH	474½ (+19p)
HTV Group	578½ (+17p)
Man Ltd	550½ (+17p)
Scot TV	700½ (+22p)
Caird Gp	867½ (+15p)
FALLS:	
Etam	161½ (-13p)
REXAM	364½ (-12p)
Tate & Lyle	483½ (-13p)
ICI	801½ (-21p)
Gen Accident	727½ (-17p)
STB	514½ (-12p)
Stobart	547½ (-11p)
Neat	570½ (-11p)
Stand Chart	680½ (-12p)
Com Union	653½ (-13p)
GUS	611½ (-11p)
Abbey Nat	608½ (-9p)
DCS Gp	227½ (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 35

## TEMPUS

### French dressing

THE Tories are timid when it comes to handing over goodies to the private sector. In France, they do it with flair and yesterday's fair was worth about £1 billion, the amount of public money to be given to state-owned defence contractors.

More to the point, when the French Prime Minister announced he was shovelling huge dollops of public money into the defence electronics group, there was no embarrassed shuffling of feet. He berated the socialists for failing to pump-prime the nationalised industry sufficiently in the past.

Brussels will no doubt look at the cash injection, but this affair is a sacred cow to more than one government, being about the greater European good of standing up to the powerful US defence combines. Combining

Lagardere, which owns Matra, and Thomson will create a strong competitor in missiles, not least because British Aerospace has recently signed a missile joint venture with Matra.

British Aerospace is feeling good about the news, but shares in its rival, GEC, were depressed as the latter has been excluded from the next phase of Anglo-French defence co-operation. GEC's partner, Alcatel, the power and telecoms group, was the losing bidder for Thomson. GEC's self-interest is understandable, but there are reasons to question whether the French Government has made the right choice. To exclude GEC's Marconi electronics business makes little sense if the objective is to create a business capable of competing with the likes of America's Lockheed Martin. In addition, GEC is not short of cash.

### Smiths Ind

SMITHS INDUSTRIES is well known for its ability to beat City profit forecasts with unfailing regularity. With that in mind, investors should note that Sir Roger Hurn, chief executive and the architect of the company's success, was brimming with optimism yesterday as he prepared to retire to the chairman's office.

The immediate cause for optimism is Smiths' aerospace division - last year the smallest contributor to profits.

New plane orders mean that Boeing's production of 737s and 777s is set to double next year, and Smiths will have up to \$500,000 of instrumentation in every aircraft. As the upturn in aerospace continues, there is scope for a substantial gain in margin.

### Wickes

WICKES provides investors with yet another cautionary tale about the hollow men and the stuffed men of the accountancy profession. Wickes is writing off some £53 million of shareholders' funds because certain managers overstated the company's profits by booking rebates from suppliers before the money was earned. The allegation is that the misrepresentation was deliberate, that warnings signals were there to be seen, and that the company's auditors should have investigated.

Wickes is reserving its right to sue Arthur Andersen, its former auditor. Senior managers have been sacked and bonuses are to be returned, but investors who bought shares on the strength of the bogus profit record in the accounts may be left with no one to turn to. The "lost" funds were a fiction, created by management, endorsed by auditors

### DFE Furniture

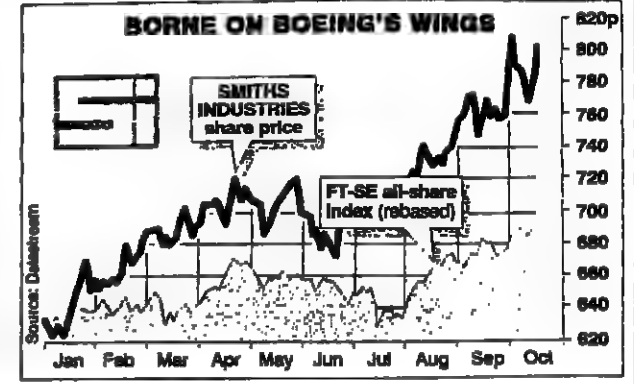
WHEN the family trusts bale out, it is reasonable to assume that a company's shares are close to the top of their range. DFE is no exception, and yesterday the company reported that Sir Graham Kirkham's children were to sell "a significant amount".

The results yesterday showed impressive growth, with turnover up 27 per cent to £184.8 million and like-for-like sales up 10 per cent in the past financial year and continuing at that rate. Moreover, the apparent success of the three new London stores and the expansion plans suggest that growth is not stopping.

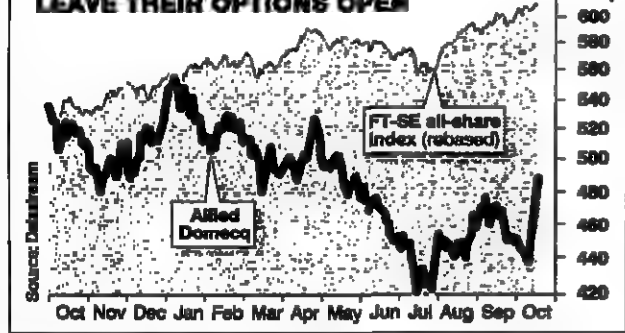
Deducting the 10p special dividend announced yesterday - the 22p slide in the shares was not as steep as it seemed at first glance, suggesting the market has not lost faith yet. But, with £37 million pre-tax profits forecast for next year, the shares trade on a p/e of 22 times, well above the sector's average 18 times. Better value retail stocks can be found.

ing acquisitions that boost earnings. The company has spent £475 million in the past six years.

Of course, the shares are expensive. Up another 12p to 803½p yesterday, they now trade on more than 19 times the current year's earnings. But Smiths' record and its prospects make it easy to justify the rating.



## ALLIED DOMECQ: BROKERS LEAVE THEIR OPTIONS OPEN



## COMMODITIES

CRUDE OIL (London 0.0000)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CISIOILS (\$/barrel)				WHEAT		BARLEY	
Brent	19	24.50	-0.15	June	98.30	Jan	97.20
Brent 2 day (Nov)	19	24.50	-0.15	July	100.50	Mar	98.00
Brent 5 day (Dec)	19	24.50	-0.15	Aug	101.75	May	100.00
WTI	19	24.50	-0.15	Sept	102.00	July	101.00
WTI 2 day (Nov)	19	24.50	-0.15	Oct	102.00	Sep	104.00
WTI 5 day (Dec)	19	24.50	-0.15	Nov	102.00	Oct	104.00
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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Knives out for the cutlery

NICE to know the nation's finances are in such safe and honest hands. Hot off the press comes the first issue of the Treasury's Accommodation and Security Team bulletin with the eye-catching headline "cutlery and crockery amnesty extended". It continues: "The restaurant is again running very low on cutlery and crockery. If you see unattended coffee flasks, plates, cups and saucers, etc anywhere in the building, please call the restaurant and they will collect it - no questions asked!" Other gems: "Graffiti... in the workplace is unacceptable." More gems anon.

### Touchlined

WE HEAR that Stephen Hinchliffe, the former F&A boss, is taking a back seat at Sheffield United Football Club. Having, at one point, been vice-chairman, Hinchliffe slipped back to being a mere director earlier this year and has now resigned from the board. Watch closely to see what happens to his 15 per cent stake in the club, which is frozen by the Mareva injunction taken out by Price Waterhouse, administrators of Hinchliffe's collapsed footwear empire.

THE "silver ferret" is on the move. Sean Lippell, head of corporate law at Leeds-based solicitors Pinsent Curtis, was given the title for his prematurely grey hair and nose for a deal. Now he is sniffing elsewhere, as he is to join lawyers Garrett & Co. the lawyers owned by Arthur Andersen.



### Red Adair

REGULATIONS from Brussels must have become so complex that even the Europhile CBI is perplexed by them. Adair Turner, the Director-General, was telling an Anglo-German business conference yesterday, about the sexual harassment directive under the Social Chapter being at odds with the principle of subsidiarity. He opened with: "Sexual harassment is a very good thing." When this was greeted with laughter, he blushed and tried to explain he was talking about the directive.

### Mini memories

MOTORING enthusiasts will revive memories of The Italian Job when they take part in this year's Lord Mayor's Show on November 9. No fewer than 35 Mini Cooper cars - as featured in the 1960s bank heist film starring Michael Caine - will motor through the City when the £3 million parade gets under way.

### Spotted surfers

SO YOU thought the typical Internet surfer was a spotty youth with a predilection for anoraks and Baywatch? Wrong. A new survey claims the average surfer earns more than £25,000 a year. More than one-quarter of British consumers say they would buy motor insurance over the net and 75 per cent of the business already transacted is by women. The survey, by Market Assessment Publications, called Financial Services Organisations, claims the high street will be the biggest losers in the Internet revolution.

Hardly anything in business lasts for ever, except for principles that remain pristine through lack of use. So there have to be rules that put some realistic value on not-so-new assets to help managers, bankers and investors assess the state of companies whose operations they cannot know well at first hand.

Accounting rules are not immune from wear. They too have a limited life. High inflation makes nonsense of measures of profit or worth. New finance or trading techniques may not be covered. Smart operators, guided by fund managers and abetted by compliant auditors, prise open loopholes and exploit weaknesses. Soon the rules stop being passive measures. They start disturbing behaviour over anything from pensions to takeovers, hinder efficiency and hold back economic progress.

Experience suggests that rules should be patched up over 15 to 20 years, then be written off and replaced. The Accounting Standards Board, set up to make rules that command general support, is about to replace its own first Financial Reporting Standard after four years. By contrast, accounting rules developed by the European Commission are set in concrete through EU directives and built into the foundations via national company law. These seemingly immutable laws increasingly stymie reform at home, and growth of international accounting standards.

Three years ago, Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, brought out a paper that aimed to deal with nonsense property

values left by the price spiral and subsequent slump. It was shelved. So were many valuations. On the unholly nostrum that rises are permanent but falls temporary, many top 100 companies still carry properties in their books at valuations made five or more years ago, near the height of the boom. Those who played fair and paid the price want Sir David to show their recalcitrant rivals a yellow card.

Today, the 1993 ideas resurface as another discussion paper: *Measurement of Tangible Fixed Assets*. It allows companies to carry assets at cost less accumulated annual depreciation, or to revalue them at today's trade prices, which allow for land values and market demand as well as wear and tear. If they are revalued, all assets in one class - such as offices or hotels - should be carried in the balance sheet at up-to-date market prices, adjusted systematically each year between full independent valuations at least every five years.

As inflation abates and city centres lose their dominance, more properties will depreciate in value, whichever route is chosen. The trouble is that an EU Company Law Directive makes accounting depreciation

## Brussels should write off the fossils of the future



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

compulsory, echoing cautious German traditions. The directive stems from proposals made more than 25 years ago. But instead of being phased out, they are enshrined in the Companies Act 1985.

Those who follow accounting reforms will find this familiar. Often, the best solutions are ruled out because they are illegal and it would take decades to change EU-inspired law. In extreme cases, standard setters invoke the "true and fair override" to ignore a law that leads to nonsense. To placate City users of accounts,

the board would make properties held as investments such an exception. They must by law be regularly valued.

The rest would have to write down values annually and charge depreciation against profits - even if they also revalue at market prices. If a property's market value stays the same, the company still has to carry an annual charge against profits. Luckily, an equal upward revaluation cannot be offset against this charge. It counts as an unrealised gain, somewhere else in the accounts. If a property is revalued upwards, the charge rises and profits fall.

Trade will be distorted. Rent your property from an investor instead of owning it creates more accounting profit, because you would have to charge depreciation but the investor does not. If EU-inspired laws stymie sensible reforms, it might be better to devote the effort to changing the way the EU legislates.

This is not an argument about whether laws should be made at EU or national level, but about how to set common regulations for a single market - not who but how. What holds for accounting standards is as likely to make sense for

rules on takeovers, pension investment, dairy hygiene, potato varieties, sewage effluent, electrical fittings or fishing.

Unlike the City Takeover Panel, Sir David saw that the best domestic efforts will founder unless standards mesh with those devised by the voluntary International Accounting Standards Committee, or which are forced on top companies by the combined weight of international stock exchanges and investors. Such rules are flexible and can cope with change. But they cannot be left to private cartels.

Most regulation should be contracted out. The Commission should aim for simple directives that traders must follow standards set by a body it nominates and whose members and outpourings it has a right to approve. The UK's Financial Reporting Council is a good model for rules that need cover only the EU. The Anglo-Saxon dominated IASC offers a better but harder example for issues where EU boundaries count for little. The Commission has rightly rejected an EU Accounting Standards Board in favour of observer status at the IASC. It might be offered more.

Would that officials were so enlightened on internal market matters. Most Brussels-bashing stems from its focus on detailed legislation and its consequent failure to manage Union affairs efficiently. Yet more central directives are on the way, on anything from takeovers to lead pipes to meet the perceived needs of the 1990s. They will become the bureaucratic fossils that trip us up in the next century.

## Philip Bassett on radical US proposals to regulate boardrooms

# Curtains for corporate back-scratching



Sir Ronald Hampel heads UK corporate governance inquiry



Frank Carlucci: former US Cabinet member who sits on 14 boards



Sir Richard Greenbury: took action to defuse row over "fat-cat" pay

Strict limits on the number of board appointments that company directors can take, the banning of boardroom back-scratching where directors serve on each other's boards, and the imposition of precise skill requirements for directors all sound like proposals from an interventionist Labour government.

In fact, they are the central recommendations of reforms shortly to be proposed for company directors in the United States - by the directors themselves.

In Britain, the issue of corporate governance - what companies do and how they do it - is about to get a fresh airing. Tomorrow, Sir Ronald Hampel, the chairman of IC who is heading the Stock Exchange-supported inquiry into corporate governance, will write to a large number of interested parties asking them to submit evidence to him. His inquiry team, comprising industry leaders and the City's great and the good, has met five times so far but is still playing the issue long. Its interim report will not be out until after the general election, with its final recommendations expected at the end of 1997.

In spite of all this private activity by the Hampel committee, the issue of corporate governance has largely retreated from the headlines, mainly because of the defusing of the row over "fat-cat" pay by the Government-backed inquiry into boardroom remuneration headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer. Though some in the City have wriggled over Greenbury - and wriggled hard, especially over pensions - company reports are increasingly complying with its central recommendation by including much fuller levels of disclosure about what board members earn, to protect their Stock Exchange listing.

If corporate governance has disappeared from the news agenda, it remains a business priority. Yesterday, leaders of the Institute of Directors staged a conference on the "enterprise side of governance", including addresses from Coats Viyella and Slough Estates, with the declared aim of trying to balance proper board accountability with entrepreneurial drive. According to Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the IoD: "The debate so far has been too heavily biased towards accountability and regulation."

In America, the IoD's sister organisation, the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), is about to make a much more radical move. Last year, while the Greenbury inquiry was inching nervously towards its proposals, the NACD strongly recommended that company directors be paid in stock rather than cash to increase their connection with the firms on whose boards they sit.

"The response was large-scale," John Nash, the NACD's president, said in Florida this week, where he

was attending a conference on corporate governance at the Stetson University College of Law. "We have seen a sharp increase in the number of companies paying their directors in stock."

In the 1950s and 1960s, payment in stock in the US formed only 10 per cent of chief executive officers' (CEOs) pay packages. By the 1980s it was 25 per cent; it is now up to 41 per cent. During 1990, CEOs' long-term incentive payments - frowned on by Greenbury - have fallen by 15 per cent, while stock option grants are up 13 per cent in a year.

With the Dow hitting 6,000 this week for the first time, payments in stock are clearly attractive. Steven Hall, managing director of Pearl Meyer, the New York-based pay specialists, says: "Stock options are the drug of choice in executive compensation in corporate America this year." Next month, the NACD will launch a new set of recommendations, which it believes will be even more far-reaching - and which could carry implications for Britain, too. "The general recommendations will have a profound impact on board behaviour," says Charles Elson, a law professor at Stetson and a member of the NACD

commission that drew up the report. "It will compel compliance."

The aim of the report on director professionalism from the commission, which includes US business leaders from General Motors, Eastman Kodak, 3M, Texaco and Bethlehem Steel, as well as academics from Harvard and elsewhere, pension fund managers and key shareholder activists, is to increase the effectiveness of company directors, who, the NACD feels, should have redirected managers in companies like IBM, GM and American Express before they hit trouble.

From a largely right-wing perspective, the commission will put

forward proposals on November 12 that are far more radical in many ways than some left-wingers in Britain now advocate to reform companies. They include:

□ **Board numbers.** The most far-reaching proposal will be precise limits on the number of boards directors can sit on. US shareholder activists, now including the Teamsters, the largest trade union, have identified some business leaders serving on a large number of boards, such as Frank Carlucci of Bell Atlantic and General Dynamics, who sits on 14, and Vernon Jordan of Dell Computer and PepsiCo, who sits on 11.

The NACD report, which will be the centrepiece at a conference in Washington next month, will say that CEOs should sit on only one, or at the very most two other company boards, and then only after consulting their own board, and only if experience of the other firms can add to that of the CEOs. Other senior managers should sit on only two or three other boards, and the limit for "professional" directors who do no other job should be five or six.

□ **Interlocking directorships.** A key feature of the boardroom pay row in Britain that led to Greenbury was the emergence of a web of directorships where board members sat on each other's boards. Greenbury shied away from confronting this mutual corporate back-scratching, but the NACD report will propose that the practice be ended, and directors appointed on the basis of fitting what companies want, and usually after an executive search by headhunters, rather than the old boys' network.

□ **Skills.** The NACD will propose minimum standards for company directors - the association accepts that many board members currently do not meet these standards. As

well as standards on wider issues such as integrity, leadership qualities and others, some proposals will be pretty basic - including the demonstrable ability to read a company balance sheet.

□ **Corporate heads.** Although the US is ahead of Britain in some respects, in others it is not. Cadbury recommended the splitting of the roles of chairman and chief executive - a proposal now widely followed in Britain. In the US, the NACD commission could not reach a consensus so it will merely state that, while the idea has advantages, individual company circumstances will dictate practice.

Parallels between Britain and the US are not exact, from the structure of equity ownership onwards, as the graphic shows. Britain has a strong imbalance in terms of institutional share ownership, compared to Japan, say, where ownership is generally balanced, or the US, where individual share ownership is strongest.

The imbalance extends to executive pay. Research by Monks Partnership, the UK pay specialists, shows that chief executives' total earnings in the UK rose by 5 per cent in 1994, compared with 12 per cent in the US. New US figures suggest that pay levels for CEOs in the Fortune Top 100 companies will average \$4.8 million (£2.7 million) this year.

However, US business leaders react with horror to the idea of going before a Congressional committee to disclose salary levels and working patterns, as business leaders did in Britain last year before a House of Commons select committee. Shareholder activism is much more advanced in the US than in Britain, though disruptions to the annual meetings of British Gas - which featured a pig called Cedric, brought along by the GMB general union - and Hanson this year, shows how much closer to US levels of activism Britain is moving. James Heard, president of Institutional Shareholder Services, the US's leading corporate governance advisory firm, believes the New York Stock Exchange will introduce governance requirements for its company listings within the next five years. Later this month his firm will be briefing its UK client companies in London on how the US and UK overlap on corporate governance.

America, despite being hit hard by downsizing and continuing rows over executive pay, offers some glimpses of the way the argument over what companies do and how they do it may go in the UK.

The Hampel inquiry may suggest a new, post-election way forward, and what is happening in the US may help in offering some new signposts, not all of which may be to the liking of British companies and their directors.

SHARE OWNERSHIP PATTERNS					
	Japan	Germany	France	USA	Canada UK
Individuals	20	17	34	48	15
Banks	21	14	6	3	7
Institutions	21	15	18	34	38
Corporate	28	38	21	0	14
Gov't & Other	2	3	2	9	1
Foreign	8	12	10	9	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NACD

## Can funds win back investors' trust?

### Robert Miller on the damage done to the industry by the Morgan Grenfell affair

None can draw comfort from the damage that Morgan Grenfell has wreaked on the good name of the unit trust industry. But it is a particular blow to the Government and the Labour Party.

While both sides of the political spectrum will welcome yesterday's clear-out of senior Morgan Grenfell executives as a sign that the messy business will not go away, they will be aware that many who may have been thinking about investing in unit trusts will be put off from making what might be a wise decision.

The Conservatives and Labour are committed to the view that we will all have to make more private provision for long-term retirement and healthcare. It follows, therefore, that the £128 billion unit trust industry will be in the forefront of such a move.

Unit trusts offer a relatively low-cost entry point into equity and bond markets, spreading the risk across dozens, if not hundreds, of holdings. Philip Warland, Director-General of

the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, says: "There is no doubt in my mind that the Morgan Grenfell business has damaged unit trusts, as did the recent Jardine Fleming affair. But it has led to the fundamental question being posed in unit trusts: how can the City as a whole manage the fund manager? Whatever else happens, the recent events have concentrated the minds of unit trusts about what their responsibilities are."

He says that rule changes on how unit trusts are managed and policed are to be expected. These, he says, will be incorporated in the new-style, open-ended investment companies that will replace many of the existing unit trusts in the next year to 18 months.

The pity of the recent happenings in the unit trust world is that such

headline-grabbing scandals tend to obscure many of the good results achieved in recent years.

Nevertheless, and this is perhaps a main feature of the Morgan Grenfell business, short-termism has been allowed to rule the industry alike. Of course, investors should keep a weather-eye on long-term core holdings, but selling a trust on the back of a one-year performance in isolation rather than, say, three to five or even seven years is a disservice and one of which many unit trust houses are guilty.

M&G, the UK's oldest unit trust group, founded in 1931, is one that has not been enjoying its customary sparkling performance record, and outsiders

have been drafted in to beef up the investment team. But Michael McLinock, M&G's managing director-elect, says the group will not bow to short-term pressures for instant remedial action. He adds: "We have been going through a sticky patch, but we are always asking ourselves if we are doing the right thing and taking the correct approach for the longer term. A lot of products are short-term flavours of the month and if we were part of a big operation there would now be pressure on us to produce just such a short-term performance solution. But we are an independent house with a reputation for integrity, fair dealing and good long-term performance."

Unit trusts and investment trusts, perform a particularly useful service for investors. Their immediate task is to reassure millions of investors that their money is being looked after responsibly. People accept that stock markets rise and fall. What they will not tolerate is bad or incompetent management.

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Ann Hansford and Roger Hussey on summary financial statements

# What's the point in being brief?

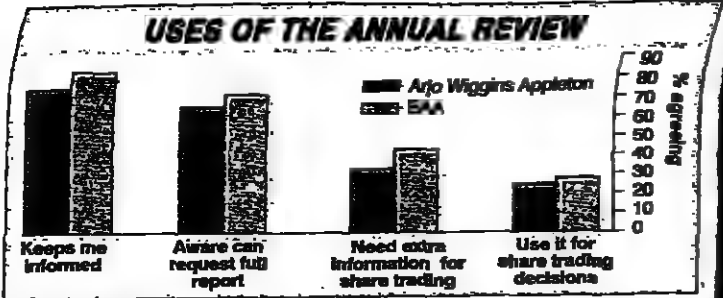
WHEN summary financial statements were introduced in 1990 as an alternative to a company's full report and accounts, the Department of Trade and Industry was clear on the reasons.

Essentially, the document is intended to improve shareholder communication and cut company costs. Now that there have been relaxations in the regulations, making it easier for companies to issue summary financial statements, it seems appropriate to look at the views of shareholders.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton and BAA supported our research. Although both included the summary financial statement in a larger document — the "annual review" — Arjo Wiggins Appleton's document was 44 pages and that of BAA 12 pages.

The table gives shareholders' responses to a question on what they considered to be the functions of the documents. In spite of the disparity in the size of the two publications, the responses were similar. The main function of the annual review is considered to be to assess the performance of the company. This response, together with the view that the annual review is designed to keep the shareholders abreast of company developments, suggests that voluntary disclosures are required in addition to the summary financial statements.

A further question we asked on



HOW THE DOCUMENT FUNCTIONS		
Function	Arjo Wiggins Appleton %	BAA %
Assess the performance of the company	55.7	62.8
Keep abreast of company developments	52.3	54.1
Know the amount of dividend	47.9	55.9
Understand strategy and policies of the company	38.5	39.5
Aid future share dealing decisions	24.2	22.9
Feel involved with the company	17.0	18.6
Identify members of the board	15.2	18.6

readership of different items supports the importance of narrative. With both documents, the three most thoroughly read items were the chairman's statement, the chief executive's review and directors' emoluments. It is interesting that more than 20 per cent of respondents considered that the function of the document was to aid share-dealing decisions in spite of the fact that both annual reviews carried the statutory

warning that the summary financial statement should not be used for this purpose. The shareholders were also asked a cross-check question that provided further data. The chart shows the percentage of those who answered "strongly agree" and "agree". These categories have been aggregated for comparison.

Shareholders of the two companies ranked the four choices in the same order, although the percentages show



Hussey: shareholders questioned

that there were some differences in the strength of responses. The highest level of agreement was the use of the annual review for keeping the shareholder informed. The second-highest level of agreement referred to the availability of the full annual report and accounts, and it is of concern that such a large percentage of shareholders apparently do not realise that this is available on request. It is intriguing that a significant

proportion of both groups of shareholders claim to use the annual review for share-trading purposes.

One explanation is provided by evidence from interviews, which suggests that less financially sophisticated users prefer a shorter document from which they can extract the information more easily, rather than a more comprehensive but more complex document.

As financial reporting regulations become even more complicated and the amount of required disclosures more extensive, the summary financial statement as part of an annual review becomes an increasingly attractive source of information for many private shareholders.

Many will regard the document as discharging a stewardship function, a way of quickly gaining information on the company. Although legislators did not intend summary financial statements to be used for decision-making, some will regard the document at least as one source of information for share trading. There are advantages in being brief and the desire to increase disclosures to prevent the misleading of shareholders should not overwhelm the need to illuminate them.

Shareholders' views of the annual review is available from Haydn Everitt, Deloitte and Touche, 0171-303 4463. The authors are at Bristol Business School.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Foundation to goad the profession

In medieval times God was thought to be the final arbiter. These days a committee will do. But the problem, as the Government has found with post-Nolan allegations of sleaze, is which group of which people will be accepted as ultimate judges of other people's behaviour. In public and professional life in recent years there has been a constant leapfrogging upwards in desperate attempts to create a tribunal, committee, or working party to inspire universal acceptance.

This week the accountancy profession published the blueprint of what it hopes will prove to be its ultimate arbiter. After months of toil proposals for an independent review board, which would initially oversee the regulatory side of the profession but in time turn into a body to act as a conscience for the accounting bodies, have finally been unveiled.

The structure is remarkably simple. A nominating board — The Foundation — would appoint a Review Board. The Foundation would have no accountants on it, "not even a past-president", as one committee member put it. The Review Board would have no regulatory powers but would follow its own agenda, reporting on anything that it felt the profession was not properly tackling.

The report's language is interesting. It says that "the public interest should be voiced with conspicuous independence". And it uses the word "goad" to show how it expects action to be brought about. "The independent articulation of public concerns should provide a mechanism," it says, "by which the professional bodies are goaded constantly to act to ensure that their system of regulation and discipline anticipates developing public concerns rather than simply reacting to them." By this method it hopes to bring about the much-needed combination of a system dynamic enough to move with the needs of public interest but stable enough to create confidence in what the profession is doing.

It will be a tough task. "It is the independence of comment upon the professional bodies' performance which offers the prospect of a dynamic system which could also be stable," the report says. "This is the principal reason for the creation of the Review Board." Initially it will cover systems of regulation and discipline, but as it develops, and if it feels the need to flex its muscles, it is expected that its remit

would widen. The report envisages the Auditing Practices Board coming under the Review Board umbrella. It sees the regulation of insolvency services and the whole system of ethics also moving fairly swiftly under its control.

Probably the best description is of the Review Board as "observer and examiner" in line with the vision of Chris Swinson, of BDO Stoy Hayward, chairman of the implementation working party which has produced the report. The system will come into force in 1998 and take regulation and discipline as its primary focus. But it is hoped that it will emulate the US model, the Public Oversight Board, set up 20 years ago. In the words of Swinson, "after five years it will talk about anything it wants". Given enough freedom it should simply expand its role. Experience in the US, says the report, "suggests that the Review Board will act as a goad to the accountancy bodies. They, it is expected, will seek to avoid public criticism by the board by taking, where appropriate, anticipatory remedial action."

This will be a two-way process. The board will expect the profession to answer when criticised. "It would not," says the report, "be the purpose of the new body to speak for the public. Rather, it should be the new body's purpose to express its independent view of what is needed to preserve and enhance the reputation of the profession for serving the public interest: to act in this sense as a trustee of the profession's name and reputation... it must be able not only to report on the profession, but also to require the profession to submit reports to it."

If the scheme is not nobbled at birth by the more secretive members of the profession, and there is no obvious way they could do that, it should become a truly independent arbiter. It will not quite provide a parting of the clouds and the hurrying of thunderbolts, but something close.

It has also provided two valuable by-products. The working party has proved that all the accountancy bodies, by and large, can act together effectively as long as those with age-old political axes to grind are excluded. And it has also ensured that if the next government opts for a US-style Securities and Exchange Commission, then a scheme that can be tacked on easily is already in existence.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Full exposure at Ernst & Young

KPMG has been making much of the survey it commissioned that shows a large majority of finance directors think accountancy firms, as KPMG alone has already done, should publish their accounts. KPMG began a poster campaign earlier this week with the theme that its books are open and so are its relationships with clients. The results can already be described as startling. No sooner had a poster appeared alongside offices of its arch-rival, Ernst & Young, than E&Y announced that it too was going to publish full figures.

### Spirited stuff

SIR DAVID TWEEDIE, the iconoclastic and humorous head of the Accounting Standards Board, is trying to get up the accounting nose of the American standard-setters again. Speaking at a seminar organised by the recruitment consultant, Hewitson Walker, he told of a spat with the chief accountant of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

### Media medals

AFTER extensive research into how much media coverage leading lights of the six main accountancy firms receive, KPMG has just released its latest findings, showing managing partner Colin Sharman way ahead with 33. Other figures are more revealing. For example, Peter Smith, Clappers & Lybrand's self-effacing managing director, scored only 11, outshone by, among others, Ron Paterson, E&Y's wily technical director.

ROBERT BRUCE



PER MINUTE

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## DMGT expands radio arm in Australia

FROM RACHIEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE Daily Mail and General Trust stepped up its expansion into the Australian radio industry yesterday with the acquisition of a further two radio stations for A\$9 million (£4.5 million).

The company, known locally as DMG Radio Australia, now has a string of 14 regional radio stations in three states, which will expand to 18 in the next few months as new stations come on air. It also owns one metropolitan station in Adelaide.

However, Paul Thompson, chief executive, admitted that the group is frustrated by the Australian Government's lack of progress in auctioning off new metropolitan FM licences which had been planned for early next year.

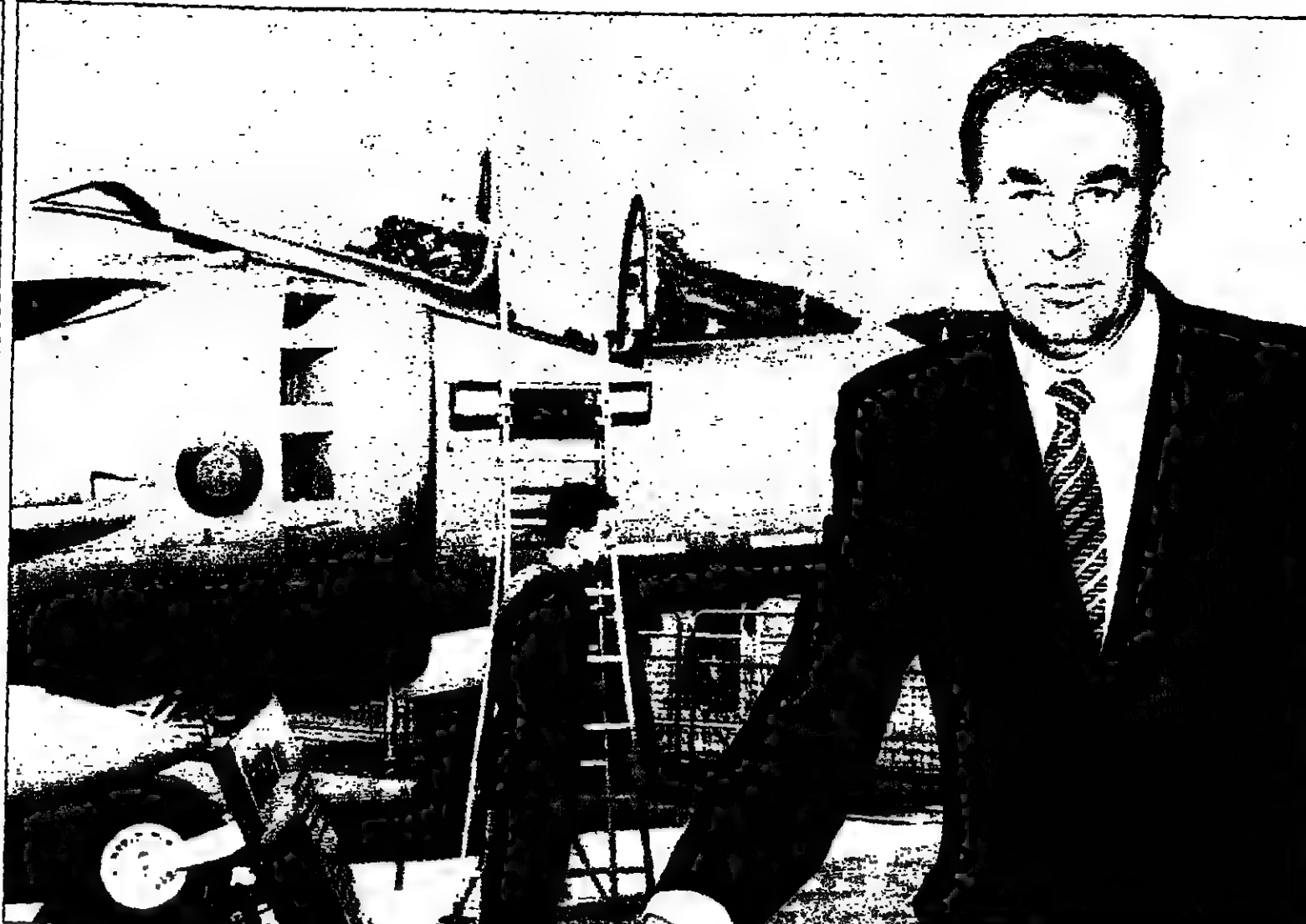
Analysis says too that a sharp rise in the price of existing metropolitan radio stations has forced DMG Radio to rethink its original strategy of buying mainly in Australia's cities and made it look at regional stations as well.

Mr Thompson said: "We remain committed to future growth through the acquisition of existing radio stations and — through new licences — the creation of new commercial radio stations."

"While the current delay in the issuing of new metropolitan FM licences is frustrating, it is allowing DMG to rapidly build the infrastructure required for the development and management of a significant network of radio stations in major and regional markets."

The two stations acquired yesterday, 2AY AM and 810.9 in Albury, New South Wales give DMG Radio a dominant presence in central and south-western New South Wales.

The Australian radio industry is dominated by two players, Austereo and Australian Radio Network and takes a 9 per cent share of total advertising revenue. Unlike UK licensing regulations, Australia does not require a radio station to specify its programming format before a licence is awarded, allowing it to alter it to suit demand. The Daily Mail and General Trust already owns more than 30 radio stations in the UK and Scandinavia.



Geoffrey Woods, chief executive of Bridport-Gundry. Its aviation acquisitions include Militair, which supplies spares for the Harrier jet shown

## Post Office seeks power to mount takeover bids

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Post Office mounted a fresh push for takeover powers yesterday, calling on MPs to let it buy other businesses and set up joint ventures.

The organisation has already had early-stage talks with a number of businesses in complementary areas. A spokesman said: "If we were allowed the commercial freedom we want, we would know where to go." He said the Post Office would look to expand its business internationally and in the UK, offering one-stop services such as direct mail.

Richard Close, finance director, told the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry into the Post Office that the organisation wanted the same commercial freedom enjoyed by other state-run postal services. He said that the UK should be able to operate in the same fashion as the Dutch Post Office, which recently bid for TNT, the international parcel carrier. He said that TNT competed with Parcelforce, part of the Royal Mail.

Office chairman, warned MPs that the organisation was at a crossroads from which it could move to be a world-beating post office or a "ghost office". He said the Dutch bid for TNT, which has said it intends to set up a rival mail delivery service, was "precisely the sort of competition we have warned about and again underline the Post Office's urgent and essential need for commercial freedom".

Sir Michael also called for the Government to ease the

cash demands — the external financing limits — it makes on the Post Office. The Post Office must pay the Government £925 million over the next three years.

The committee heard from all sides in the postal service in its one-day inquiry, including the unions and customers groups. The Communication Workers' Union is currently balloting members on a pay and conditions package amid a long-running dispute with the Post Office.

The one-day strikes implemented by the union over the summer resulted in a one-month suspension of the Post Office's monopoly of post costing less than £1. If further action is taken the Government has said it will suspend the monopoly for three months. The result of the ballot is expected at the end of the month.

The Communication Workers' Union has backed the Post Office's calls for government cash demands to be trimmed. It said the Treasury was too stringent, denies the Post Office "vital finance for investment and has contributed to the current climate of industrial unrest in Royal Mail".

## Bridport's aviation expansion

By NOEL FUNG

BRIDPORT-GUNDY, the specialist textiles and aviation products group, has raised £9.1 million through a rights issue to fund three acquisitions that will double its market capitalisation from £15 million to £30 million.

The acquisitions, costing £11.95 million, are Militair Aviation, an aircraft spares distributor; Avery, a passenger-cabin textile designer and manufacturer; and Safetywear, an aviation clothing distributor. They will need to be approved at a general meeting on November 8.

The three for four rights issue at 130p per share, raising £9.1 million, will cover the cash and loan notes portion of the acquisitions, while the rest will be financed through the issue of shares.

Aviation and defence contributed more than 50 per cent of the group's profits in the year to July 31. Pre-tax profits increased 9 per cent to £1.45 million, on turnover up 7 per cent at £30.3 million.

Graham MacSparran, the finance director, said the acquisitions would increase earnings per share by up to 20 per cent. The group is to dispose of its non-core sport and leisure division.

The proposed final dividend will be 2.44p, making a total of 4.04p, up 12 per cent.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Compaq Computer boosts profits 43%

COMPAQ Computer Corp lifted its profits by 43 per cent in the third quarter as it increased sales of personal computers and accessories and streamlined operations. Compaq, the world's largest supplier of personal computers, said that net income for the three months to September 30 rose to \$350 million, from \$245 million. Earnings per share were \$1.26, up from 89 cents previously. The per-share results were well above Wall Street estimates of \$1.07, but the shares fell by \$1.875, to \$73.25, in early trading in New York.

Revenue rose by 25 per cent, to \$4.5 billion, from \$3.6 billion. Compaq said that its accessories business, which includes monitors, keyboards, and CD changers, grew significantly in the third quarter and remained one of its most profitable segments. For the first nine months of the year, net income grew by 20 per cent, to \$851 million, from \$707 million. Revenue rose to \$12.7 billion, from \$10.1 billion. Worldwide sales were \$14.8 billion last year, the last full year.

### Portfolio value falls

TOWN CENTRE SECURITIES, the property investment company, reported a 2 per cent fall in the total value of its portfolio to £253 million yesterday. This was in spite of the addition of shopping centres in Salisbury and Leigh. The average yield of new purchases was in excess of 9 per cent. Pre-tax profits were £9.88 million (£9.3 million) in the year to June 30. Earnings eased to 5.92p a share (6.38p) as a result of a higher tax charge. The total dividend is 3.5p a share (3.25p), with a 2.45p final.

### Ashbourne buys homes

ASHBOURNE, one of the UK's largest private nursing home groups, has acquired three purpose-built nursing homes for a total of £5.9 million. The homes, with a total of 134 beds, are in Bolton, Cambridge and Upminster. Ashbourne will now operate 3,325 beds in 46 homes. Homes with a total of 591 beds are currently under construction and due for completion within the next 12 months. Tony Hamilton, chief executive, said that the company would continue to seek suitable acquisitions.

### Wescol exports flourish

WESCOL Group, the structural steel fabricator, said orders since the year-end have been excellent, with export orders exceeding the total for the previous year. The company has secured three contracts in Singapore worth more than £5 million. In the year to July 31, Wescol lifted pre-tax profits to £1.2 million, from £800,000, on turnover that improved to £28.7 million (£24.3 million). Earnings were 2.6p a share (2p). A final dividend of 0.7p a share lifts the total to 1p (0.75p).

### Adwest in Nissan deal

ADWEST, the engineering company, has secured a contract worth £7.5 million annually to supply pedal boxes, gearshifts and handbrakes for Nissan's new Primera. The car is the first Nissan model designed specifically for European markets and is set to become its best-selling model in Europe. Adwest Rearsby, a subsidiary, also supplies components for the Nissan Micra. Nissan has 204 suppliers in Europe, spending about £705 million each year on components.

### Blockleys passes payout

BLOCKLEYS, maker of bricks and clay pavements, is passing payment of an interim dividend (0.01p last time). In the six months to June 30, the company cut pre-tax losses to £54,000, from £211,000, but it says that trading conditions remain harsh, with the construction industry expecting UK brick sales to be lower than in 1995. Company turnover fell to £4.4 million, from £5.28 million, in what Brian Taylor, chairman, called "the worst half-year recorded in the brick industry".

### La Senza expanding

LA SENZA, the specialist lingerie and sleepwear retailer, plans to open a further seven shops, including its first outlets in central London, within the next month. A 15-year lease was signed last week for a shop in Oxford Street, giving the company a presence in the West End of London. La Senza raised £19.35 million when its shares were floated on the Alternative Investment Market in May, to fund the opening of 150 shops nationwide over five years.

## Accounting change hits Burn Stewart Distillers

By KEITH RODGERS

PRE-TAX profits at Burn Stewart Distillers, the Scotch whisky producer, dived in the year to June 30, after its auditor insisted on a change in accounting practices.

The company, which said its underlying business was improving, had postponed the results for two weeks as it applied accounting standard FRS 5. As a result, forecast pre-tax profits of about £4 million fell to £1 million, compared with £3.96 million.

The change centred on its dealings with a wholesale customer, which also provides consultancy services to Burn

Stewart. Price Waterhouse, its auditor, judged that the customer was effectively not independent and that FRS 5 applied. Burn Stewart was forced to make provisions and defer profit until the current year, when the consultancy agreement ends.

It is proposing to pay a further dividend of 1.7p per share in November — making 3.4p for the year, compared with 5p — but expects to make a larger interim or full-year dividend in the current year. Earnings per share fell from 4.65p to 0.94p, on turnover up from £50.4 mil-

lion to £54.4 million. The company's gearing increased slightly, to 99 per cent.

Ian Bankier, group managing director, said gross margins remained stable at 25 per cent. The company claimed to have growing support for its repeated calls for increases in supply side prices of up to 50 per cent, although Mr Bankier said he did not expect significant movement until the next financial year.

The share price, already at an all-time low, fell 11.5p to 70p at the start of trading yesterday, before recovering slightly.

## United Assurance given shareholder approval

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

TRADING will begin today in United Assurance, a new £1.4 billion insurance company formed from the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly.

The merger was finally approved yesterday by both sets of shareholders after two months of wrangling. The deal had faced opposition from a number of institutional shareholders, which argued that Refuge had been undervalued by £450 million and the potential value of its surplus "orphan" assets in the life fund had been ignored.

The deal was announced in

August and Refuge eventually bowed to shareholder pressure and created a sweeter in the form of a new security that guaranteed its shareholders a slice of any future benefits. At the extraordinary meeting in Wilmshurst, Cheshire, Refuge shareholders approved both the issue of new security and the terms of the merger. United Friendly shareholders also approved the terms of the merger.

The last obstacle to the merger was effectively removed when Perpetual, the leading fund manager, which holds a 7 per cent stake in

Refuge and which had voiced criticism of the merger, gave the deal its blessing last week.

The Prudential, which holds 6 per cent of Refuge, and Britannic, Refuge's biggest institutional shareholder with a stake of 10 per cent, had both expressed reservations about the deal. However, after the creation of the sweeter they accepted the terms at the end of September. Shares in both companies rose on news of the approval: United Friendly by 4.5p to 88.5p and Refuge by 4p to 42.2p.

Pennington, page 29

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## 'Feel-good' factor back at Pru

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

NEW BUSINESS figures published yesterday by the Prudential, the UK pensions group, show the long-awaited "feel-good" factor has returned to the savings market.

The greatest shift in sales has been toward single premium products. Worldwide single contribution sales for life, pension and investment products were up by 52 per cent in the nine months to September 30, and UK single sales rose by 48 per cent. If a one-off annuity sale of £500 million were included in the figures, they would total £5 billion worldwide, up by 70 per cent, and £2.78 billion in the UK, up by 80 per cent.

The Prudential's figures are seen as a benchmark within the industry, and will be encouraging to other life com-



Peter Davis saw Prudential win more new business

panies. During 1995, sales fell amid consumers' fears over job security and people's reluctance to buy into the life industry after the pensions mis-selling scandal. Tough new rules on the

way in which products are sold, known in the industry as "disclosure", are also believed to have dampened sales.

Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, said that he was "delighted" with

the figures. "Sales are continuing to grow in our US and Asia operations, while, in the UK, our new marketing and distribution initiatives continue to boost sales significantly," he said.

Single contribution sales continued to benefit from the successful marketing of the Prudence Savings Account and the Prudence Bond, a with-profits investment bond, which brought in £461 million and £564 million respectively. The Prudence Bond has attracted more than £4 billion since its launch in April 1991. Regular contribution products increased by 9 per cent, to £229 million.

In Asia, annual premium sales rose by 17 per cent, to £68 million, and single premium sales more than doubled to £61 million, boosted by Singapore.

## KINGDOM OF MOROCCO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS CONCESSION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL TRANSHIPMENT ATLANTIC-TANGIER PORT INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

The Moroccan Ministry of Public Works is launching an international open tender for the prequalification of bidders interested in the concession of new Atlantic-Tangier port. The new port would receive on one hand, all the traffic of the present port of Tangier not including the passengers, fishing and pleasure traffic which would remain in the present port, and on the other hand, international transshipment traffic. The concession implies that the selected bidder (concessionaire) take charge of carrying out the detailed and tender design engineering studies, constructing the new port and operating it for a certain period of time to be defined later. The option of conceding the operating of the present port of Tangier might be considered through the offers to be submitted by the bidders. The tender is open to Moroccan and foreign corporate bodies, companies, shipowners, banks and financial institutions, public and private corporations, individually or associated in joint ventures, and having satisfactory technical and financial references. The prequalification application documents may be obtained by the interested bidders from the Direction des Ports et du Domaine Public Maritime of the Ministry of Public Works starting October 15th, 1996. The application for prequalification will be made by answering the questionnaire of the prequalification application documents. The duly filled in prequalification documents are to be sent along with a registration application, not later than December 23, 1996 at 6.00p.m. to the following address:

DIRECTION DES PORTS ET DU DOMAINE  
PUBLIC MARITIME  
ROUTE D'AKKACH, HAY NAHDA II  
B.P. 5131 — Rabat-Takaddoum  
Rabat-Morocco  
Phone: (212 7) 75 39 45 & (212 7) 75 57 14 —  
Fax: (212 7) 75 00 11

A briefing session will be held on October 31, 1996 at 10.00a.m. at Marchane Palace — Tangier. Companies interested in attending this briefing session are requested to apply by October 28, 1996 at the latest.

Expected schedule:

Notification of the prequalification results to the candidates: March first, 1997.  
Closing date for the selection application: July 31, 1997.  
Notification of the selection results to the prequalified candidates: September 30, 1997.  
Notification of the concession: March, 1998.







## Gilts and equities sharply lower

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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**FILM 1**  
The magnificent *Breaking the Waves* shows the disintegration of a Hebridean life and marriage



**FILM 2**  
... while *Tin Cup* finds Kevin Costner as the underdog come good in a pleasing comedy about golf

## THE TIMES ARTS



**FILM 3**  
Powerful and uncompromising, *Nothing Personal* is set among the paramilitaries of 1975 Belfast



**FILM 4**  
... but the preposterous *Dragonheart* reshapes a string of mock-medieval clichés

CINEMA: Geoff Brown is stunned by a Hebridean melodrama and tees off with Costner

# Caught up in human wreckage

In a fit of collective lunacy, distributors are opening 11 releases this week, which is several more than any sane critic can handle. But one film towers above them all. It looks different. It feels different. It grabs hold of the audience and sends us on an extraordinary journey of discovery. It is *Breaking the Waves*, the fifth feature of Lars von Trier, the Danish director who has previously seemed more interested in being clever than connecting with human beings. But from the first scenes where Bess, the Scottish innocent and prospective bride of an oil-rig worker, faces the frowns of her church, Trier puts people first.

The setting is a devout community in the Outer Hebrides, where the weather seems as domineering as the word of God. The visuals match the craggy landscape. The hand-held camera of Robby Müller lurches from face to face in long, sinuous takes. Aside from picture-postcard shots interspersed between the film's seven numbered chapters, the images contain no throbbing colour: this is a film of dull flesh tones, of grey skies and Presbyterian black. The extreme lack of visual adornments magnifies the focus on Bess, her disapproved marriage to the worldly Jan (Stellan Skarsgård), and the extraordinary passions this provokes. Luckily, Trier's main actress, Emily Watson, never shrinks from close scrutiny: in her film debut she lays her soul bare before the camera.

In despair once Jan returns to his rig, Bess prays to God to send him home. God sends him back paralysed after an accident. Denied physical pleasure, Jan encourages his wife to have sex with strangers. The more she obeys, the more Jan is restored to health; but Jan's salvation is her own damnation, and she pays the price.

Here Trier wades into stormy waters. You don't need to be a card-carrying feminist to quake at the prospect of a simple girl dolling herself up in red PVC and fishnet stockings to do her master's bidding. Scruples have to be swallowed for the film to work its spell: and some may find this impossible. Those who succeed are rewarded with a melodrama of astonishing power; a film that holds you, sometimes painfully, in its grip for every one of 158 minutes, evoking the powers of belief, love and duty with the starkness of the best Scandinavian cinema. The script, incidentally, is published next week by Faber and Faber, price £9.99.

After the rigours of *Breaking the Waves*, how about a game of golf? The man behind the golf club is Kevin Costner, though being a reckless Texan he also hits the ball with a rake, spade, shovel and movie and, despite a predictable finish, it shows a vast improvement on the last golfing comedy, *Happy Gilmore*, which never advanced much beyond balls landing on people's heads.

This is as expected, for the director and co-writer is Ron Shelton, a master of Americana with a special flair for the lingo and culture of sports. Golf gives him less to bite on



Getting the engaged signal: Emily Watson makes her film debut as Scottish innocent Bess heading for marriage and damnation, in Lars von Trier's *Breaking the Waves*

**Breaking the Waves**  
Lumiere, 18, 158 mins  
Stunning melodrama from Lars von Trier

**Tin Cup**  
Warner West End, 15, 135 mins  
Kevin Costner plays golf  
**Nothing Personal**  
Plaza, 15, 85 mins  
Searing Belfast drama  
**Boston Kickout**  
Warner West End, 18, 105 mins  
Generation X hits Stevenage

**Dragonheart**  
Empire, PG, 103 mins  
Gobbledygook with a talking dragon  
**The Wind in the Willows**  
Warner West End, PG, 88 mins  
Terry Jones's hit-and-miss adaptation takes some liberties  
**Alaska**  
Warner West End, PG, 109 mins  
Family adventure with an antique feel

copters whirling overhead. The actors play their part too. Michael Gambon redeems some recent bad performances as the Loyalist leader trying to go softly softly. Ian Hart and James Frawley chill the bones as trigger-happy fanatics. This is an uncompromising film, and it concentrates the mind.

Despite the title, *Boston Kickout* takes place in Stevenage, and the local council wishes it did not. For time has moved on since the Hertfordshire new towns were blandly worshipped by newsreel cameras as the suburban dream come true. The Stevenage of Paul Hill's promising debut feature, shot in 1994, is a concrete wasteland where teenagers idle, and escape the blank future through drugs, drink, or a rampage through neighbours' gardens.

The script attempts to squeeze in too much drama as it follows the fortunes of four school leavers. One minute our hero Phil (John Simm) is urinating over bread at his bakery job; the next, we are faced with a parent's slashed wrists, a juvenile mental breakdown, or a dalliance with Phil's Irish cousin (Emer McCourt).

A few snips with the editorial scissors would help to highlight the film's best qualities: a jaunty vein of black comedy, fresh performances, and an urge to reflect how young people in Britain actually live.

After 100 minutes in Stevenage, how about an injection of fantasy? The preposterous *Dragonheart*, directed by Rob Cohen, aims for an overdose, ransacking so many myths and movies to build its story about a medieval knight (Dennis Quaid) tearing up with a noble dragon to free the country from tyranny.

If the plot prompts an enormous yawn, the special-effects dragon is worth a look, especially as he speaks with Sean Connery's voice. Slovakia provided the picturesque locations: best not to inquire what country the film is supposed to be set in.

At least in *The Wind in the Willows* we know where we are: England, land of green

fields, steam trains and animals in pullovers. This is not quite Kenneth Grahame's book. Writer, director and Toad impersonator Terry Jones hauls heavy Pythonesque humour into play; while the dog-food factory finale bores through overkill. Jones's cohorts include Eric Idle (Rat), Steve Coogan (Mole) and Antony Sher (Chief Weasel), but the effect they make, like the film as a whole, is very haphazard.

For more straightforward family fare you could always brave Alaska, where two youngsters and a lolling bear strive to locate their father's crashed plane and ward off attack from Charlton Heston. The scenery comes up trumps, but the script is dull, and the ponderous direction of Charlton's son Fraser enhances the feeling of an antique film, lost in time.

## Clean as a whistle

Any concert by David Murray feeds off the element of surprise. Not all the surprises work, but his current UK/USA Big Band has more than its fair share, and when jazz whistler Joel Brandon produced a *tour de force* solo within bars of the start of the opening *Bessie's Blues*, it was clear that Murray's magic was at work.

Brandon trained as a flautist and had a successful hobby winning competitions throughout America imitating birdsong before he brought his two talents together. "He's been to parts of the South people still don't go to, just to win these competitions," says Murray. "He has to be the greatest whistler in jazz today." There can be few challenges for this position, but

### JAZZ

David Murray  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Brandon's range and intensity held their own against the formidable solos by members of Murray's American-based Octet, who had dropped into the big band line-up like seeds at Wimbledon.

For intensity, Brandon's main challenge came from Mancunian poet Lemn Sissay, who incanted his words over the full force of the big band with frenetic energy. In trumpeter Hugh Ragin's composition, *Harmolodic Architecture*, Sissay's verses were mirrored in sound pictures by the band, but the most effective poetry came in *Fire People*, Sissay contorting himself into a passionate frenzy as he squeezed out his words over Murray's composition, *Destruction Of Our Children*.

Murray's gifts as a teacher, organiser, composer and catalyst are still dwarfed by his own instrumental skills — his tenor sax and bass clarinet solos having a stamp of individuality that was matched by few of his band. He was effectively paced by David Jean-Baptiste in a sumptuous clarinet duet, and British trumpeter Byron Wallen also held his own.

Murray's democratic principles gave plenty of space for his colleagues' compositions to be heard, but in these less successful surprises, came mainly from trombonist Craig Harris, whose unaccompanied cadenza in the first half was as musically vivid as it was visually entertaining. Later he poured water on the stage while chanting the names of dead musicians in a misplaced display of self-indulgence in what was otherwise a successful example of collective collaboration.

ALYN SHIPTON

**'ONE OF THE BEST FILMS EVER MADE'**  
'SUBLIME' WATSON IS ASTONISHING... A DAZZLING DEBUT  
Grand Prix Cannes 1996  
Love is a mighty power  
**BREAKING THE WAVES**  
LARS VON TRIER  
STARTS TODAY  
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

**TIN CUP**  
Susan Wallace, 19: Yes, they have whiter-than-golfball-white teeth. Yes, her legs are longer than the entire course. Yes, this does just about sum up the entire plot. A film about risks which takes none, but some witty scenes early on.  
Elizabeth Kerr, 19: You don't have to be a golfer to enjoy this film. Kevin Costner plays a believable character with the right balance of humour.  
Steve Victory, 22: Very average Costner flick — action and adventure is sparse. Definitely a rainy day film.  
Tassos Stevens, 20: This is a typical American movie: the triumph of heart over head and victory for the little guy. Surprisingly entertaining.

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**  
Susan: Brilliant casting. You wouldn't find a rattier Rat or a

## SNAP VERDICT

molier Mole in any hedgerow. With dungeons, mincing machines and dark forests, you have all the ingredients of a good horror film. Some of those weasels might just be ready for a Tarantino role. Elizabeth: The cast was amazing and the acting superb. A children's classic well worth seeing.  
Steve: The humour is sharp and absurd, the tone suitably jolly; what we've come to expect from the Python crew. Tassos: Terry Jones here has a gamut of ex-Pythons and big comedy Brits as ingredients but throws in as many (poor) special effects as he can afford, risible songs, and ends up with an inconsistent mush.

**"A Texan Citizen Kane."**  
Critic's Choice DAILY TELEGRAPH  
**"A movie masterpiece."**  
Critic's Choice DAILY MAIL  
**"A shocking plot twist that puts The Crying Game to shame."**  
You Show DAILY TELEGRAPH  
**"Terrific..."**  
★★★★★  
Kuo Hsueh-CHANG  
**LONE STAR**  
NOW SHOWING  
CURZON WEST END  
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Licence renewed:  
Pierce Brosnan  
gives James Bond  
a sparkling new  
lease of life  
in *Goldeneye*



**CHOICE 1**  
Walton's music  
is played by the  
BBC Symphony  
Orchestra

VENUE: Tonight at  
the Festival Hall



**CHOICE 2**  
Neil Bartlett  
directs Shaw's  
*Mrs Warren's  
Profession*

VENUE: In preview at  
the Lyric, Hammersmith



**CHOICE 3**  
In Manchester  
the Hallé  
plays works by  
Hector Berlioz

VENUE: Tonight,  
Bridgewater Hall



# In double-0 seventh heaven

## NEW ON VIDEO

**GOLDENEYE**  
MGM/UA, 15, 1995  
BOND's latest battle to save the world  
from destruction can now be yours to  
own. You can buy it neat, or collectors  
may prefer a special edition which  
includes a stainless-steel engraved  
Parker pen, an exclusive book, and  
Tina Turner singing. Either way, you  
also get Pierce Brosnan's sardonic  
wink, lots of self-mockery and slum-  
bang action. Lots of faults, too, but  
there is something both charming and  
exhilarating about this vigorous sur-  
vivor from another age.

**CITY HALL**  
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1995  
SOMETHING is rotten in the city of  
New York, even with Al Pacino as  
mayor, as his admiring sidekick John  
Cusack finds out. Actors alone make  
this a very watchable drama, although  
Bridget Fonda is forced into the  
script, and the film collapses in its last  
stages. Director, Harold Becker. Avail-  
able to rent.

**DRAGNET**  
Retro Video, PG  
HARDLY surprising that this famous  
television crime series was parodied so  
much, for its director and star, Jack  
Webb, pursued a strict formula. Mat-  
ter-of-fact dialogue ('It's my job. I'm a  
cop'); police procedure; constant close-  
ups of talking faces, as Webb's Sgt Joe

Friday interviews every suspect or  
witness to the crime. Two tapes offer  
six episodes from the early 1950s (the  
show ran from 1951 to 1959). They do  
not offer much drama now and their  
"realism" is very studio-bound, but the  
show did point the way forward to  
grittier things.

**TOY STORY**  
Disney, U, 1995  
THE first feature cartoon generated  
entirely by computers is not just a  
dazzling technical achievement. John  
Lasseter's movie also packs an emo-  
tional punch and is smart enough to  
appeal both to kids and adults. Tom  
Hanks's Everyman voice is perfect for  
the hero Woody, a cowboy marionette  
whose position as top toy is threatened  
by the gung-ho Buzz Lightyear, a  
flashy action figure. Deep inside the  
story lies a parable about belonging  
and friendship: the surface gleams  
with visual delights, chases, comedy,  
thrills and spills. Available to rent.

**TWELVE MONKEYS**  
PolyGram, 15, 1996  
TERRY GILLIAM's extravagance is  
unwieldy, though parts dazzle and it  
does take you to places no other recent  
film has attempted to reach. Bruce  
Willis is the time-traveller from the  
future seeking the source of a virus,  
Madeleine Stowe is his spunky help-  
mate, and Brad Pitt the loony who  
might hold the key. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



Famke Janssen has a crush on Pierce Brosnan's Bond in *Goldeneye*

## NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Loewe's bicentenary; Weill on the Great White Way; Mahler in love

### VOCAL

Hilary Finch

**LOEWE**  
Lieder and Balladen  
Schmidt/Garben  
CPO 999 253-244  
THE bicentenary of the birth  
of the German composer Carl  
Loewe has stimulated a *Festschrift*  
of recorded recitals, forming a complete edition of  
his songs and ballads: the first  
four volumes on CPO are  
revealing. Loewe was two  
months older than Schubert  
and outlived him by 40 years:  
his *Erkennung* is just as startling  
as Schubert's, though Loewe's  
*Ganymed* is a *Seemannslied*  
epitaph on the difference.

With their striking me-  
lodies, often lurid piano parts  
and taste for the ghoulish,  
Loewe's songs make their  
effect at once, or not at all.  
Andreas Schmidt (Vol 1) leaps  
to the challenges of Loewe's

### ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

**MAHLER/SCHOENBERG**  
Adagio from Symphony  
No 5. Verklarte Nacht, etc.  
Smithsonian Chamber  
Players/Slovak  
Deutsche Harmonia Mundi  
05472 7734 2-44  
IT IS by now reasonably well  
known that the Adagio from  
Mahler's Fifth Symphony,  
popularised by Visconti's film  
*Death in Venice*, was actually  
indeed by the composer as a  
declaration of love to his  
future wife, Alma. Since we  
know this from a marking in  
the score belonging to Willem  
Mengelberg, it is fascinating  
to have the opening minute of  
Mengelberg's 1926 recording  
alongside the reading of the  
Smithsonian Chamber Play-  
ers on this imaginatively  
planned disc.

Under the direction of  
Kenneth Slowik, the Smithso-  
nians have mastered the elas-  
tic tempos, the ebb and flow of  
early 20th-century style, play-  
ing instruments of the period  
and applying generous portan-  
mentos. The lean sound of gut  
strings tends towards the un-  
dernourished to modern ears,  
but the performance is entirely  
convincing in both mood and  
idom.

Schoenberg's *Verklarte  
Nacht* is similarly well paced,  
its textures astringent but  
clear. The composer's own  
programme notes, with musi-  
cal examples, are read in the  
original English by his secre-  
tary, Richard Hoffmann. In  
addition to Mahler's arrange-  
ment for string orchestra of  
Beethoven's F Minor Quartet,  
Op 95, this exemplary disc  
contains two more Mahlerian  
extracts in performances by  
Bruno Walter.

Worth hearing  
Worth considering  
Worth buying

**WEILL**  
Kurt Weill on Broadway  
Hampson/London  
Sinfonietta/McGlinn  
EMI 7243 5 55563 2-44  
THOMAS HAMPSON pays  
his second visit on disc this  
year to the Great White Way.  
Here he homes in on Kurt  
Weill and, with conductor  
John McGlinn, opts for some  
of the less familiar scores.

Half the playing time goes  
to *The Firebrand of Florence*,  
a virtually forgotten work  
which was the nearest Weill  
came to opera. It managed  
only 43 performances on  
Broadway but contains some  
good numbers, including *You  
Have To Do What You Do*.  
*Do*. The Hampson swaggers,  
with such British singers as  
Donald Maxwell and Simon  
Keenlyside in tow, suggests it  
could be revived.

Ira Gershwin wrote the  
words. Among Weill's other  
lyricists are Ogden Nash,  
Maxwell Anderson and Alan  
Jay Lerner. In shows such as  
*One Touch of Venus* and *Love  
Life* they wrote verses that  
"Hampson" relishes. Weill's  
first completely American  
show, *Johnny Johnson*, is  
surprisingly put last. The hero  
has a haunting number, with  
Weill still in Berlin cabaret  
style. Elsewhere he tries to be  
the all-American boy and in  
Hampson he has just that sort  
of guy to interpret him.

### NEW RELEASES

**BROTHERS IN TROUBLE** (15)  
Recent drama about illegal  
immigrants in South Britain, with  
Tom and Angela Ball  
ABC Television Court Road (0171-  
636 6146) Mates (0171-437 0577)

**JACK** (PG) Joy and pain of a  
child with an inguinal hernia, played  
by Robin Williams. Flat and mawkish  
comedy from director Francis Ford  
Coppola. ABC Television Court Road  
(0171-636 6146) Mates (0171-437 0577)

**LOVE STAR** (15) John Wayne  
in a starring role, with a love story  
about love in the Rio Grande.  
Cannon W 6 (0171-369 1222) Nothing  
But The Best (0171-727 6705) Warner  
(0171-337 8402) Renaissance (0181-332  
0100) Ridley (0171-727 2121) Screen  
Vision (0171-435 3668) Virgin  
Classics (0171-352 5095)

**JUDIE** (16) Vigorously depressing  
version of Hardy's novel about dashed  
hopes and heart loss, with Christopher  
Ecobson and Kate Winslet.

### CINEMA GUIDE

**THE MUTT PROFESSOR** (12)  
Lively if vulgar reworking of the old  
Lewys film, with Eddie Murphy as  
the comic professor who craves a sleek  
sleeper. Director, Tom Shachtel.  
Clapham Picture House (0171-498  
3233) Empire (0171-985 9803) **U**  
MGM Bayswater (0171-437 0577) **U**  
Odeon Kensington (0171-437 0577) **U**  
Ritz (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys  
(0171-437 0577) **U**  
Victoria Palace (0171-437 0577) **U**  
Windsor (0171-437 0577) **U**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND  
DOGS** (15) Pleasant romantic comedy  
about misanthropic love, with  
Christopher Ecobson and Kate Winslet.  
Director, Michael Lehmann.  
ABC Television Court Road (0171-  
636 6146) Mates (0171-437 0577)

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THEATRE

Tom Courtenay joins Albert Finney and Ken Stott in a new 'minor classic', *Art*



MUSIC

Peter Maxwell Davies steers the RPO through a thrilling account of his superb Seventh Symphony

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE

Steps ancient and modern: Shobana Jeyasingh turns the oldest choreography into something new



TOMORROW

The return of the indestructible Donovan, plus the latest CDs — all reviewed on the pop page

THEATRE: Friendship and Art mix beautifully; Disney wobbles into the barriers

# Bittersweet on the palette

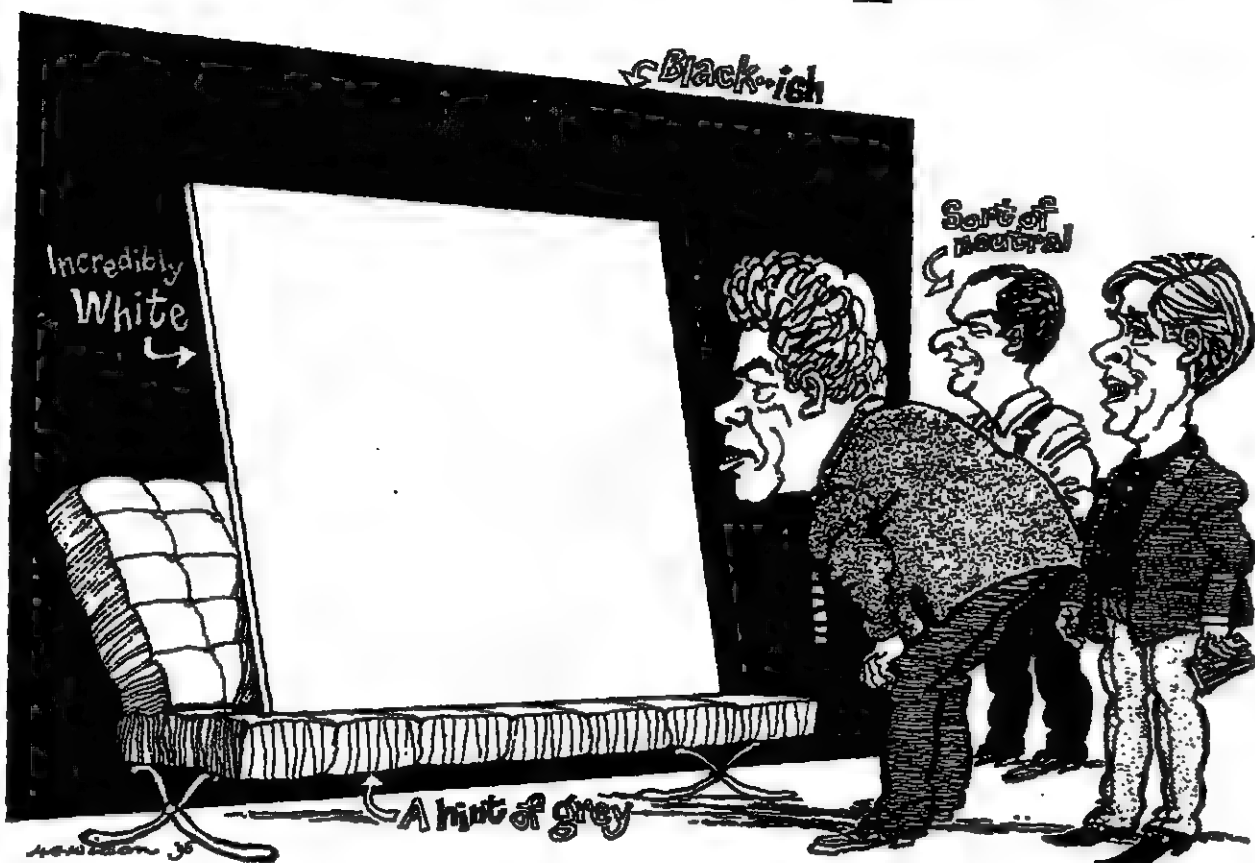
The picture might be titled *Snowscape* or *Absolute Purity* or *The Triumph of Washing Powder* or *Blanc de Blanc* or *The Thoughts of a Polar Bear*. At any rate, it is a large white rectangle, unadorned by anything except what we are implausibly told are white diagonal lines running across it and a horizontal white line near the bottom. It is, in short, a sort of nothing — yet it is enough both to turn

Art  
Wyndham's

close friends into enemies and to sustain a remarkably wise, witty and elegant comedy.

Yasmina Reza's *Art* has conquered much of Europe since its opening in Paris, and will surely do the same to London, especially as Matthew Warchus, who directs, has assembled a top-notch cast. Tom Courtenay is Serge, the earnest dermatologist who has just spent 200,000 francs on a painting that makes late Rothko seem as busy as Breughel. Albert Finney is his best friend Marc, a hearty, extrovert aeronautical engineer whose first reaction to this expensive acquisition is to cackle with unseemly mirth. Ken Stott is Yvan, something small in the stationery business and, it turns out, almost equally small in the hearts of his supposed chums.

The row that duly erupts between Serge and Marc, with Yvan helplessly half-agreeing with both from the sidelines, at first involves the painting itself. Serge believes he has invested wisely in an artist, one Antioch, who is admired in the best Paris galleries and even hangs in the Pompidou Centre. And by doing so he is "playing my part in the fundamental dynamic of evolution".



"A play likely to become a minor classic": Albert Finney, Ken Stott and Tom Courtenay in Yasmina Reza's *Art*

Marc thinks his friend worships novelty for its own sake and has squandered a small fortune on rubbish. The conflict seems to be between cultural pretension and philistinism, with thoughts about the art-trade, the subjectivity of taste, and other matters that regularly bubble up.

You might think, then, that *Art* blends one of Sacha Guitry's boulevard comedies with *Timberlake* — Wertmüller's attack on art-as-commodity. *Three Birds Alighting in a Field*. In fact, it is just as much a mix of Harold Pinter and Jules Feiffer, whose plays and cartoons took such glee in the emotional knots of the over-sophisticated. The plot

ture brings out tensions that are already festering in an old friendship. Try as Serge and Marc may to stop themselves, feelings of rejection and anger surface on both sides. Power, dominance and control are also much involved. So is resentment at the half-noticed, half-ignored changes that occur in all relationships, male as well as female. By the time Finney's raging Marc leaps for his throat, Courtenay's wintry Serge has managed to say unforgivable things about him, his wife, everything. A disagreement about art is in danger of going nuclear.

Before it reaches an ending that should satisfy those with a due regard for both friendship

and modern art, the play has deftly raised issue after issue. To what extent does caring for a person mean accepting his tastes? To what extent does a person actually consist of his opinions? To what extent should friendship mean evading, fibbing and/or trying to adjust one's own beliefs to someone else's? With Courtenay and Finney at their

sharpest, and Stott hilarious yet touching as a blundering piggy-in-the-middle, these aren't just abstract questions. They are central to a play that strikes me as likely to become a minor classic.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● This review appeared in later editions of *The Times* yesterday

## Layers of language

FOR the past eight years Shobana Jeyasingh has been making beautiful and intelligent dances in a style that was born in the classical traditions of South India and matured under the influence of contemporary Western dance. But with her latest piece, *Palimpsest*, given its premiere at the Nottingham Playhouse on Tuesday night, Jeyasingh has left tradition behind, forging a dazzling and totally distinct movement language that obeys no one's rules but her own.

Like the first layer of a palimpsest, the old writing of Jeyasingh's Bharatha Nattam schooling is only just visible through the layers of new dance that have been added to its roots. The strong, rhythmically emphatic feet, the splayed fingers and the squatting, diamond-shaped legs of Bharatha Nattam peek through the choreography only to be painted over with a much more sweeping dynamic. The entire body is liberated, the focus moves from the extremities into the torso, enlarging the work's emotional heart and giving the ensemble an effusive physicality.

Like Graham Fitkin's commissioned score, the choreography suggests a variety of creative impulses all taking place at the same time. The varying strands meet, feed off each other and then disappear as one idea sparks another in Jeyasingh's mesmerically constructed overlays. The six dancers huddle in whispered confidences, secure in their exclusively female universe. When they suddenly look over their shoulders, as if



The dazzling Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company

DANCE  
Shobana Jeyasingh  
Nottingham  
Playhouse

Jeyasingh's most evocative works, a strange landscape of contrasts set to Glyn Perrin's score for bass clarinet and three cellos.

The footnotes are the principles of Bharatha Nattam which ground the choreography in academic form: the romance is the mystery and serenity which give the choreography its mood. There are snappy sentences of complex rhythms set against languid paragraphs that sail up and over the pulse like a melody, as Jeyasingh's lovely women, so pristine yet imaginatively daring, indulge their curiosity for adventurous movement. Jeyasingh has a wonderful eye for shapes, positioning dancers in exquisite sculptural formations. The gorgeous lighting is by Michael Hulls.

DEBRA CRAINE

## Keep the mice on ice

ONE OF the 20th century's great mysteries is how American citizens came to believe they were adequately represented by an impotent mouse for whom white gloves are a significant fashion statement. But there is, and here he is, along with other creatures from the Disney menagerie, skimming across the ice in a mishmash of a show produced by Kenneth Feld, who shares the blame for an increasingly tedious evening with Jerry Bulik, himself a Theatrical Director, Writer, Musical Director and Vice President (Creative Development).

When Donald Duck emerges from the far curtain and skates towards us, the sight of this eccentric bird in his trouserless naval cadet's uniform is undeniably endearing, but it's then a matter of what you do with the creature over the next two hours. Mr Bulik does nothing more than get him to read Prince Charming's proclamation on

Walt Disney's World  
on Ice  
Wembley Arena

the eve of the Ball. Mr and Mrs Mouse are offered more testing roles, and a gruesome sight it is when Minnie, dressed as Cinderella in mauve, steps from her apology for a coach that looks like a hoop balanced on a squashed wedding cake.

If I had been Mr Bulik I would have done wonders with the earlier transformation scene by having one Minnie, dressed in rags, skate off behind the curtain and another Minnie, glittering in diamonds, skate out from the other side. Instead, the scene just ends with Fairy Godmother saying "Bibbity bobbity boo," and on come the dancing humans. It's a real let-down.

In the first half the focus is upon the familiar cartoon

figures. Alice, Baloo, the Sorcerer's Apprentice, and the scenes putting them through their tricks are not extended with needless dance routines. The broomsticks whirl round and round but that's their character, though no attempt is made to build excitement by reproducing their nightmarish increase in numbers.

After the interval the show drifts into an unfunny, unspectacular Wild West routine no different from the sort of stuff offered in any old ice show. Ryan McKinnon, dressed as Zorro, jumps over barrels with amazing grace, though I don't know what Zorro is doing with Disney. Most of the photographs in the ES souvenir programme relate to a different show, as does the list of scenes. The sprightly Mowgli wears a flesh-coloured body stocking without nipples. Really creepy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## CONCERTS: Maxwell Davies and Berio set the standard

TWO London concerts on consecutive nights featured up-to-the-minute works by Luciano Berio and Peter Maxwell Davies, a rare treat when the label "contemporary music" can mean anything written in the second half of this century. Even better, Maxwell Davies' Sixth Symphony was receiving its fourth performance since its premiere as many months ago, another event worth noting when new pieces can wait a long time to be repeated.

But the stirring Sixth deserves this attention. After this series of performances and a visit to the recording studio, all conducted by the composer, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is truly "inside" the work: this was a performance that made every note in the 50-minute score count. The playing was fluid enough to reveal the distorted but anxious lyricism, and tight in the violent percussion eruptions. Dark sonorities evoke the wildest of elements, but in this spacious score there is also room for dancing high spirits and calm reflection.

The poor audience turnout was surprising, given the popularity of the "sweeteners", Mendelssohn's overture, *Alm*

## Thrill of the newish

*Sea and Prosperous Voyage* and the Piano Concerto No 1 by Tchaikovsky. Both were distinctly underwhelming in performance, that needed tighter control. Maxwell Davies' conducting lacked authority, although he was not helped by Barry Douglas's blustery approach to the concerto.

BACK from the Berio seventh birthday festivities in Milan, the London Sinfonietta gave six UK premieres in the course of its Berio and his *Contemporaries* concert on the South Bank. The highlight was Berio's own *Kol-od* (Chemin VI), a reworking of his solo trumpet *Sequenza X* as a work for trumpet and chamber orchestra.

Brutal fanfares played by Gabriele Cassone against a mostly smooth accompaniment make up this exuberant,

colourful score, conducted with meticulous care by Mariss Stenz.

In his unique set of virtuoso pieces for solo instruments, Berio has just reached *Sequenza XIII* for accordion; almost as new, *Sequenza XII* for bassoon, reached us last week with Pascal Gallois as the player, and at nearly 30 minutes' duration it must be the longest in the series — perhaps too long, in fact. It is nevertheless a remarkably concentrated score, with sustained notes slipping via warring pitches into wild little dances.

Berio's stature was only underlined by the Franco Donatoni and Niccolò Castiglioni pieces played alongside. Donatoni's *Flas* may be a witty vocal setting and his *Flag* explores blocks of sound effectively, but neither speaks with much individuality.

Castiglioni's *Risognanza* is a collection of 15 rather arid miniatures, making one all the more grateful for his *Cantus Planus*, mystical poems (sung by Sarah Leonard and Teresa Shaw) set to music of ravishing delicacy.

JOHN ALLISON

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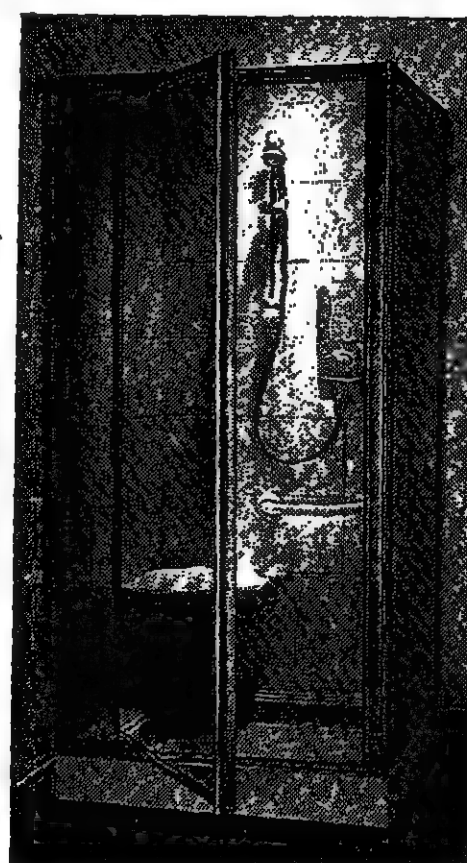
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East from Hadrian's Wall, Peter Stothard follows Rome's emperors on a journey to the frontiers of sanity

# An empire ringed with walls of fear

Once upon a time there were two shepherds called Gold Dust and Innocence who lived outside the bedroom of a Roman emperor. They were extremely happy, especially Innocence, because anyone whom the Emperor Valentinian suspected of plotting against him (and that was almost everyone) was thrown alive into their cage. But still they yearned for freedom and a normal family life. So finally their master, anxious that Innocence should have the chance to produce cubs as fierce as herself, took her off into the forest and let her go.

This charming story of life and death in the late 4th century AD comes down to us courtesy of Ammian, the last great ancient writer of history. It follows an equally striking passage about Valentinian's Eastern emperor brother, Valens, which involves racks, whips, a magic metal plate, a tripod of twigs and several hundred torture victims who would have been infinitely more comfortable in the arms of Gold Dust and her friend, Ammian, a Syrian Greek from Antioch, has been described as "the greatest literary genius between Tacitus and Dante". Gibbon relied on him. Modern writers of newspaper profiles owe a debt to his character sketches. But, except for a few bravura passages, he is not much read today.

Thus it is good to see the approval he gains in this new book from a successor in Roman imperial studies. Derek Williams's title may not suggest a gripping entertainment: *The History of the Roman Frontier* threatens a plodding march of the mind around walls and encampments. But the author does more than show where Rome fortified its boundaries; his story is how the hubristic paranoia of emperors, from Augustus to Valentinian, both created Rome's frontiers and opened them to decline and fall.

The armed Roman frontier is most familiar to the British from Hadrian's Wall. It is a familiar concept, too, to those who have witnessed the divided Europe of the 20th century. Ammian, who lived in the East where Williams guides us along lesser-known defences, had no doubt that walls

## THE REACH OF ROME

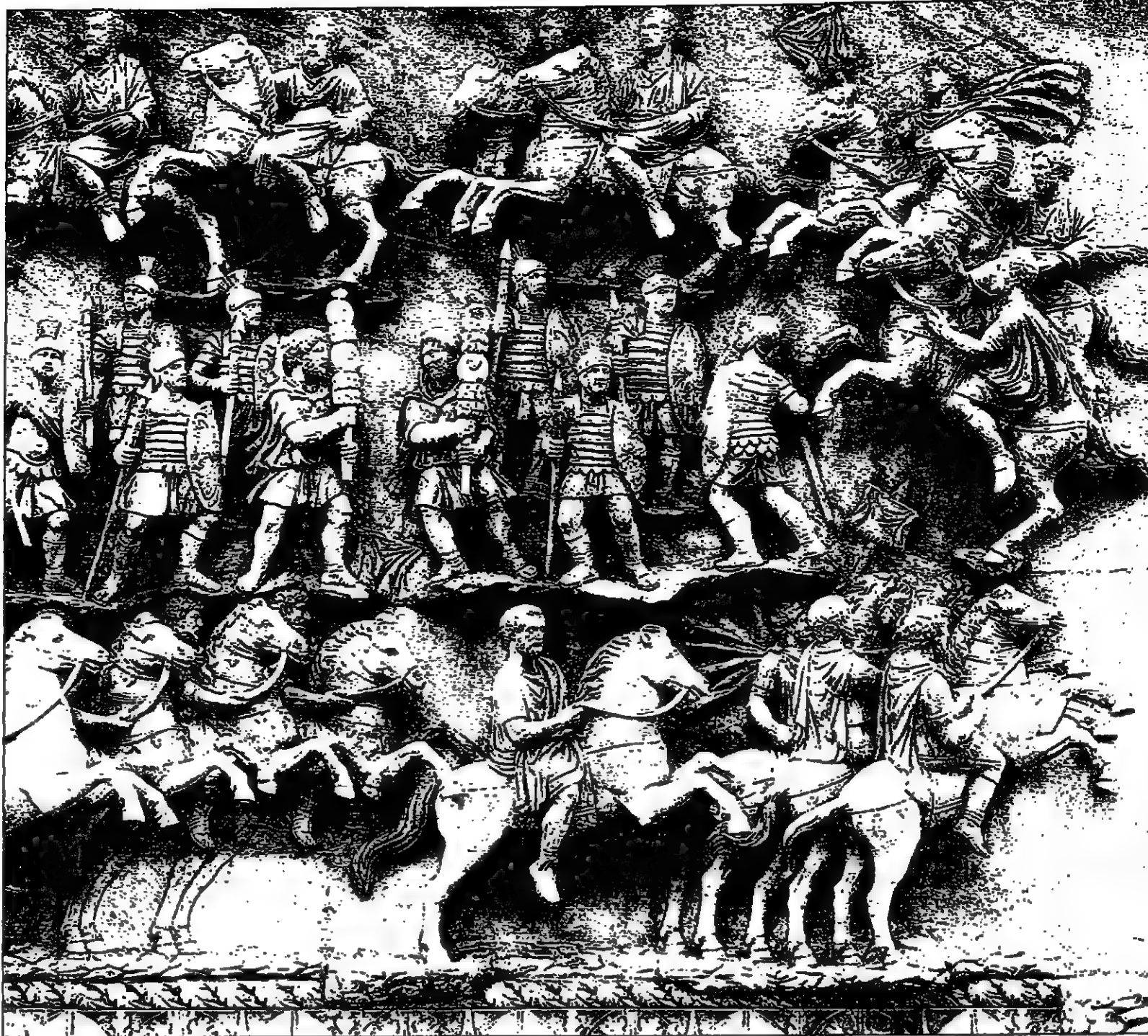
A History of the Roman Imperial Frontier 1st-5th Centuries AD  
By Derek Williams  
Constable, £25  
ISBN 0 09 476540 5

were the best policy: Valentinian's regrettable choice of bear-fodder was more than compensated for by his sagacity on the Western front, his recognition that "it was a greater service to keep the barbarians in check by frontier barriers than to defeat them in battle".

A fortified boundary had not always, however, been central to Rome's security. In the years when the city was fastest expanding its power, its most famous generals believed in mobile warfare, the ability to strike, like Julius Caesar in Gaul, with overwhelming force at the point where the enemy was least expecting. Aggressive, mobile attacking forces also provided defence in depth against a potential invader. A thin line of troops strung out along a frontier was, by contrast, only as strong as its weakest point, demanding huge expense in manpower and giving a poor return on the investment.

There were some advantages in a walled empire, of course. Individual cities did not need expensive fortifications as long as the frontier held. Every civilian citizen of Rome could confidently concentrate on business or pleasure without the bother of bearing arms. A wall could even reassure neighbours that Rome had no hostile intent beyond it: Williams gives a persuasive account of how Hadrian's Wall was built with imperious disregard of defensive requirements but spectacular potential for showing where Hadrian's British interest ended.

But the most pervasive reason for promoting a policy of armed frontiers was none of these. Augustus never forgot that he had become the first Roman Emperor by force in a civil war. In order that he should not himself be toppled by a fellow general he wanted Rome's soldiers spread far away from home. And as Williams puts it: "All the early



Column dedicated to Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161), whose wall was north of Hadrian's (from *Splendours of the Roman World*, Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

and many of the late emperors would follow his lead, not in deference to Augustus's memory, but because they shared his fears".

During that time the Empire would sometimes expand (as in the pointless invasion of Britain by the publicity-seeking emperor, Claudius) and sometimes contract (as in Hadrian's masterly abandonment of Mesopotamia and the northern Danube). But the fundamental principle remained: troop concentrations tended to be more dangerous to the leader of the Roman Empire than they were to his enemies. Even on the farthest borders, troops were best kept busy building walls for the glorification of the Emperor. A million man-hours went into Hadrian's folly, Williams estimates.

By the time of Valentinian and Valens the Roman frontiers were looking about as reliable as the Maginot Line. But no

one could grasp the great strategic problem of the age. Ammian provides a vivid description of Valentinian's death: the Emperor boils over with rage against German protesters who are complaining about a boundary construction; he is struck dumb, turns red, sweats, grinds his teeth and wholly fails to match the late-life peace of his favourite killer bear. Valens, the blood-thirsty brother, has a no less nasty end.

In the end it was left to the conical-headed Hun to show up the Roman frontier for what it had become. The Hun drove on the Goths and in AD 410 the city which had captured the world was itself captured. Innocence's grandchildren had new masters to serve. The paranoid imperial classes had finally something to be properly paranoid about. None of them lived happily ever after.

The author is Editor of The Times.

## Rock-a-bye job

Eric Lomax

### THE ADMIRAL'S BABY

By Laurens van der Post  
John Murray, £19.99  
ISBN 0 195 53429 9

This is the long-promised sequel to Sir Laurens's *Night of the New Moon*, which deals with his experiences as a prisoner of war in Java between 1942 and 1945.

*The Admiral's Baby* is a much more extensive memoir and is an account of Sir Laurens's work in a remarkable postwar operation, the British occupation of Java, 1945-46. Sir Laurens promised to write it while on board HMS Cumberland, anchored off Tandjong Priok, probably on September 19, 1945.

August 21, 1945, was one of those dates which is very special to the people concerned. It is the starting point of this extraordinary story.

In the morning Sir Laurens was the senior British Army officer in a POW camp of 7,000 men, prisoners of the Japanese, at Bandung, in Java. In the afternoon, after a summons to appear in front of the local Japanese commanders, he was invited to assume virtual command of the Japanese forces in Java. He commenced his new career by issuing orders for the release of the British and Australian servicemen and for Japanese troops to protect the Dutch POWs and civil internees from the Indonesian nationalists who had declared independence from the Netherlands four days previously.

It is unlikely that any British Army officer has ever before had such an incredible change of status in a matter of hours. He immediately launched



British prisoners released in Java, 1945

Sir Laurens describes how help slowly began to arrive. Not until about September 12 did a heavy cruiser, HMS Cumberland, slip into Tandjong Priok. Sir Wilfred Patterson, the Admiral of the title, was in command. The British occupation of Java had begun. Over two weeks later the first British troops arrived. The British forces were eventually built up to a strength of 92,000 men, an astonishing figure.

Meanwhile the systematic murder of Europeans began in Surabaya; this soon turned into real warfare, with heavy casualties. British, Dutch and Indonesian,

Sir Laurens describes his months of struggles as a military-political officer, continually trying to bring together the opposing factions and trying to get the Dutch traditionalists to scale down their attempts at reimposing colonial status. And, as if all that was not enough, he struggled to protect the 70,000 Dutch POWs and civil internees who were still in real trouble. His life during his two years of office was a continuous sequence of travel, not only within Java but as far afield as London and The Hague.

This outstanding book is essentially a personal memoir, emotional and sometimes self-congratulatory, rather than history. I am not sure whether to congratulate Sir Laurens on his devotion to duty or to sympathise with him. Who else would have stepped out of a POW camp, where he had been organising the collection of stones with which to defend the inmates in the event of an attempted Japanese massacre, into a military and diplomatic appointment with the eyes of the world upon him? Who else would have toiled thus with not a day's leave and without seeing his mother or his family?

While many will disagree with the author's views on war crimes trials or his admiration for the top politicians of the postwar Labour Government, this book is a major contribution to our knowledge of a postwar episode, the British occupation of Java, about which so little has been published.

## On active duty

Ian McIntyre

### FORD MADDOX FORD

A Dual Life  
Volume II: The After-War World  
By Max Saunders  
OUP, £25  
ISBN 0 19 212008 3

WHEN Volume One of this biography appeared earlier this year I was inclined to reserve judgment, fearing mainly that the density of the writing would be a barrier. Now that it is possible to review the work in its entirety, my reservations are removed. This is an outstanding life and a major contribution to literary scholarship.

Volume Two begins and ends in France. Ford arrived there in the summer of 1916 as a second lieutenant in the Welch Regiment, sailing up the Seine in a riverboat as far as Rouen — a fellow officer remembered him as "a big, florid, unhealthy-looking man of about 40".

Twenty-three years later, only months before the outbreak of the Second World War, he died in the Clinique St François at Deauville and was buried in the cemetery on the cliffs. He had spent his final years with the Polish-American painter Janice Biala. When she moved back to France in 1947, she was told that a drunken gravedigger had made a mistake, and that Ford had been buried in a plot of unhalloved ground.

Until recently that was also the fate of his literary reputation. Saunders acknowledges that this was partly Ford's own fault. His "messy public" private life, his "freedom with fact", the unevenness of much of his writing were all factors. Even his appearance counted against him.

He was not short of perceptive admirers, however, even in his own day. Ezra Pound called him "the man who did the work for English writing". Much of that work was done in the two interwar decades which are the subject of this volume. Shell-shocked on the Somme, Ford fashioned out of his wartime experiences the four volumes which comprise

*Parade's End*, hailed by the American writer William Carlos Williams as "the English prose masterpiece of their time". Saunders subjects the tetralogy to exhaustive scrutiny and pronounces it (with Conrad's *Under Western Eyes*) "one of the best Russian novels in the English language".

From 1923 onwards, the "work" continued in Paris. *The Transatlantic Review* stands up well as a discriminating cross-section of post-war Modernism, writes Saunders, who has a nice line in resounding understatement. Under Ford's editorship it published, in whole or in part, *Finnegans Wake*, two of Pound's *Cantos* and some of Hemingway's best stories. Ford cast his net wide, and drew in not only writers, but also artists and composers.

As in Saunders's first volume, anyone feeling the need of a break should peruse the index. The entries about Ford himself are especially good: "accused of being his own grandfather"; "challenges Gide to a duel"; "names potato plants after writers"; "asks French minister for ferrets".

A casualty of a German shell 80 years ago, Ford subsequently, as Saunders puts it, became "a casualty of the academic guardianship of literature". This biography releases him from the casualty clearing stations in which he has been detained for so long and restores him to active literary service.

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Still but deadly waters

Anguilla is the forlorn outpost of a world-weary civilisation. The last of the inhabited islands in the Leeward chain, it is a long, flat, featureless lump of scrub-covered coral. For tourists travelling in the Caribbean it is where the island-hopping stops. But few come there. The new hotels which straggle the beaches are still windowless concrete husks. And beyond, out in the sparkling waters of the Anegada Passage, the hammerhead sharks cruise, unseen and unseeing.

In *Tropical Darkness*, his third novel, David McLaurin

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

### TROPICAL DARKNESS

By David McLaurin  
Duckworth, £14.99  
ISBN 0 7156 2735 X

returns to the West Indies where he himself grew up. The island of Anguilla stands as a stark symbol of jaded hedonism. It is a refuge for disconsolate dreamers, a resort for futile hope. And if the island setting — isolating, as it does, a disparate gathering of people in artificial circumstances — is felt to be too convenient a fictional device, McLaurin is content at first to let the contrivances strain at the seams.

Duxbury, a malign, manipulative Prospero, commands centre stage. A former Oxford don with a chill intelligence, he is darkly handsome and unassailably devious. His elder daughter, Caroline, lives with him on the island. Plain, with unexpectedly short hair and a severe, if not unpleasant, moon-shaped face, her sensitivity has been subjugated to practicality and sound common sense. Her sister Artemis, in contrast, has a rich golden beauty. But she is as slim and pale and hard as a marble statue, indifferent to the vagaries of public opinion, to the platitudes or censorships of praise or blame.

The Duxbury family, together with a large, ungainly Anglican canon — a refugee from women priests and a domineering sister in Basingstoke — and Judy, the hard-drinking owner of the local beach-bar, are the principal inhabitants of Anguilla until a yacht weighs anchor in the bay. Charles, the laudacious scion of a wealthy English family, and his parasitical friend Gianni, a surly Italian playboy, step ashore.

McLaurin casually throws together the ingredients of a romantic melodrama and idly stirs it. His skill lies in the wait. It is only gradually, as events slowly simmer, that the deeper convictions and ideas which motivate his characters coalesce. Almost imperceptibly the reader finds that all shallow expectations overturned, the novel is confronting such primal concepts as the nature of good and evil, as religion and faithlessness, as the ideals and despair, as the desires and disillusionments which inform all human relationships.

Romantic convention has served all the while as bait for the sharks. The gleaming underbelly of an inscapable past glimmers menacingly through the muck of each character's memory. The future gazes at them with a black and pitiless eye.

With sharp insight, McLaurin slices the skin of expectation and lets the viscera of romance corn: tumbling out of *Tropical Darkness* is an evoked love story which explores an implacable world where to live without love is the slowest form of suicide.

The recently published book, *OpJB*, is an account of how Ian Fleming and Christopher Creighton, the book's author, led an expedition that brought Martin Bormann, Hitler's Secretary, to England at the war's end. The book has been the centre of sensational controversy. Bormann, as the sole executor of Hitler's will, played an essential part in the disposal of Nazi assets in Swiss Banks. Bormann's authority to release such assets was the reason the Allies wanted him in England. This is a matter of supreme historical importance. In the interests of truth, a reward is hereby being made of

# £20,000

to anyone who can provide evidence that Operation James Bond did not take place.

Conditions of the reward. Applicants must provide direct, first-hand, factual evidence, not based on rumour, gossip, hearsay or opinion, provable in a court of law, that Operation James Bond, as described in *OpJB*, did not take place. Applicants must also be prepared to submit and negate the evidence produced by Creighton, that *OpJB* did take place. The facts to be relevant must have occurred between January 1 1945 and May 15 1945. This offer is open until December 31 1996 and only the first person providing such conclusive evidence will receive the £20,000 reward. If legal costs are involved, each side will pay its own. Applications to be sent to Operation James Bond, c/o Curtis Brown, Haymarket, London.



Douglas Hurd admires the political career of a serene and straightforward Earl who renounced his title and became Prime Minister

# Steady hands to drive the coach of State

In May 1940 Lord Dunglass, MP, underwent a routine Army medical examination in Edinburgh. The resignation of Neville Chamberlain earlier in the month had deprived him of his job as parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister and he wanted to rejoin the Lanarkshire Yeomanry for active service. To his annoyance, the board told him he was in poor shape and should go away and rest. Later in the summer tuberculosis of the spine was diagnosed, a tricky operation was performed and for nearly two years Sir Alec (as it seems sensible to call him) was encased in plaster and unable to leave his home.

He used the time to read and think. It was the first of three setbacks, any one of which for a less persistent politician might have been conclusive. The second came when he lost his seat at Lanark in 1945, the third when his father died in 1951, just after he had regained Lanark, and he performed entered the House of Lords as the 14th Earl of Home. After any one of these setbacks Sir Alec might reasonably have abandoned politics for his family, for cricket and racing, for the admirable pleasures and duties which belonged to him in the Borders.

But each time he came back into politics and climbed a little higher up the spider's thread. Mr Thorpe's book traces the reason why. Sir Alec, by inheritance and education, found it natural to serve. It was his vocation. Moreover, he had a lively and penetrating interest in party politics. His difficult manner could be deceptive. If he spoke and behaved like an amateur it was because he had many interests outside the game. It did not mean that he was incapable of defending

his wicket and notching up a decent score.

Politicians in recent times have been measured by how much they want to change, and how rough they are in imposing their views on others. Sir Alec would not do well by that test. Once only he rebelled against the orthodoxy of the time, when in early 1945 he helped to lead the Conservative revolt against the Yalta settlement of the Polish question.

His steady suspicion of Soviet good faith and intentions was a consistent thread throughout his

ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME

By D. R. Thorpe

Sinclair-Stevenson, £25

ISBN 1 85194 277 6

later life. For the rest, politics for him meant the successful handling of problems as they arose rather than the emphatic assertion of controversial principles. This separated him from the next generation of politicians. For example, Ian Macleod and Sir Alec never saw eye to eye. Sir Alec regarded his two successors, Ted Heath and Margaret Thatcher, with affectionate bemusement as they attempted their cultural revolutions.

For Sir Alec the main objective of government was to keep the coach on the road. If that meant going a bit slow from time to time, or taking a detour to avoid an obstacle, so be it. The qualities needed of the coachman included serenity, realism and an ability to understand and help others. Macmillan manufactured a reputation as an unapproachable Prime Minister, but his outward serenity concealed acute

nervous tension, for example during the Cuban crisis. Sir Alec's serenity was the real thing.

He accepted reluctantly but with clear sight the realities of a changing world. His aim as Commonwealth Secretary and then twice as Foreign Secretary was to manage that change, so that it inflicted the smallest possible shock and damage on Britain. The transformation of southern Africa was one example; the change in the character of the Anglo-American alliance another. From these vantage points of serenity and realism Sir Alec could hold out a hand to those with whose turmoil he sympathised.

Neville Chamberlain was glad to come to the Hired in October 1938 to shoot and recuperate. Later Sir Alec corresponded intimately at other times of crisis with Eden and Macmillan. Within his expressions of support were embedded hard nuggets of information. Eden was warned of the mounting anxiety in Cabinet about the Suez operation; Macmillan was advised not to continue into a 1963 or 1964 general election. Because these three Prime Ministers trusted Sir Alec they accepted from him advice as well as sympathy.

There was no pomp or vanity about Sir Alec. He had no need to assert his position. His traditional education enabled him to dispense with jargon and long argument. I knew him over 30 years, first when I was a very small official and last as one of his successors. He treated me exactly the same from first to last — at all times informal, straightforward and helpful.

Mr Thorpe writes a straightforward and much needed account of a straightforward man. At first I thought that he was including too much of the trivia of government



The Earl of Home, the then Commonwealth Relations Secretary (left), with Ted Heath, Minister for Labour, Downing Street (1960)

such as the text of resignation letters or the details of ministerial travel. But these are, after all, the daily diet of politics. To leave them out is to distort. In particular they have a place in the story of a man for whom the process of carrying on the Queen's Government was all important.

The centrepiece of the book is a full and convincing account of the events of October 1963 which

culminated in Sir Alec becoming Prime Minister. Points which had been obscure, at least to me, became clear — for example the effect of American antagonism to Quintin Hailsham. Thorpe concludes that Sir Alec won "by keeping his options open and by not wanting the prize too much".

As it is well known, Harold Macmillan wrote to the Queen from hospital summarising his

findings about the succession. Thorpe quotes from a striking earlier draft, not sent to the Palace, and not released by the Public Records Office until last year. Here in the "Tuesday memorandum" the retiring Prime Minister ruminates on the fact that "it is thinking about themselves that is really the curse of the younger generation — they appear to have no other subject which interests them at all". Sir

Alec by contrast, wrote Macmillan, represented the old governing class. He was much liked by men such as Kennedy, Rusk and Gromyko because the class to which he belonged "think about the question under discussion and not about themselves".

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, CH, CBE, MP, was Foreign Secretary 1989-95.



Journey from Buchenwald: boys liberated by Czech partisans at Theresienstadt, May 1945

## Victorious lives

Julia Neuberger is moved by the accounts of Holocaust survivors who found refuge in Britain

This volume of memories, a group biography of 732 people, makes almost unbearably painful reading, while being impossible to put down. Martin Gilbert has acted as a conduit for the memories of people, now in their mid-sixties, who came to Britain in 1945 and shortly after, as young concentration camp survivors. They had, in many cases, seen their parents killed, been unable to say goodbye, and had witnessed the most inhuman acts on the part of their persecutors.

One tells of a baby tossed up in the air amidst drunken laughter and caught in a huge pan again and again until he stopped crying. Another tells of the brutal murder, by local village Nazis, of the husband of a wonderful German woman who had sheltered him and another Jew. And still they survived, to become decent, "normal", adults.

Gilbert states his "personal reason for writing this book. It is 22 years since I first met Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a survivor of Auschwitz and one of those whose story is told in this book. Not only did he encourage me to devote time to

THE BOYS  
Triumph Over  
Adversity  
By Martin Gilbert  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20  
ISBN 0 297 518 38 1

recording the fate of the Jews during the Second World War, he also introduced me to the members of the '45 Aid Society, of which he was, and is, a part." Sadly, Hugo Gryn did not live to see this volume published. But his sense of urgency that these experiences should be recorded, and that gratitude should be expressed to those who helped, is amply fulfilled by Martin Gilbert's comprehensive work.

In the summer of 1945, Britain declared itself ready to take up to a thousand young survivors of the Holocaust. Only 732 could be found. They went to Northern Ireland, Scotland, Windermer and Southampton. They had health checks; most were suffering from something — dorrant TB was commonplace — frostbite with oozing toe stumps was seen, scarring and deformities as the result of beatings and forced labour the norm.

They were greeted with immense kindness and given sympathetic support before they gradually moved on to hostels. All spent months and years looking for relatives. Only a few found them.

After they separated, the need for social contact was paramount. So the Primrose

Club was born, in Beisize Park, London, and the survivors, and others who had reached England in other ways, met regularly. When Zigi Shiger, originally from Lodz by way of hellish experiences, came into the Club on his first evening, he recalled how "I felt I was at home again. I found my family and I found the Boys — and after 50 years we are still together".

For this is ultimately a book about optimism. They survived. They made good. They were helped by the inspirational Leonard Montefiore, by Joan Siebel, by prewar refugees from Nazi Germany, and by many others. They helped each other with their mutually supportive '45 Aid Society. But it is in recording their memories for Martin Gilbert, thanks to Ben Helgott and Hugo Gryn, that their stories reach immortality, in memory of those they left behind, who perished. Through the pain of telling, 50 years on, comes an indomitable spirit.

Leonard Montefiore argued that: "If we lavish care on a few survivors, we are, at the same time, paying tribute to the dead." Indeed they were, and the Boys have paid their tribute by rebuilding shattered lives. The photographs of their reunions show a bond so strong it shines out of static serried rows. This is a book about coming out of hell, about great evil, about the triumph of the human spirit, and about great goodness on the part of those who helped. One is left with hope, and admiration.

## Breathing life into language

Robert Nye

AFTER RAIN

By William Trevor

Viking, £16

ISBN 0 670 8007 2

William Trevor is a poet of prose fictions. Each of his stories is like a poem, an experience captured in words and drawn out to just the length it requires to reveal its meaning. His is quite a scarce skill — knowing exactly where to start, and when to stop. His stories have more shape than those of any other living practitioner of a difficult art.

The twelve new examples collected in *After Rain* show Trevor at the top of his form. Whether he is writing about a boy who believes he has been killed by the ghost of a female saint, or the two rival wives of

land at work in fiction today. Not for him the kind of over-writing which some would think inevitable in this context. It is just that he sets down about his native land a number of things which seem true to life, as well as strange to a foreigner.

Widows, in which a woman pays money to a crooked painter and decorator to prevent the memory of her dead husband being tarnished by the tradesman's claim that a bill was not met, is a key story here.

Seldom can the complexities of small-town Irish life have been so ruthlessly unravelled. *Lost Ground* tells much about the troubles of the North by recounting different sectarian reactions to a Protestant boy's vision of a saint.

Generally, the more Trevor is involved in his subjects, the better he writes. He writes of ordinary people pitched momentarily into extraordinary situations, and learning something about themselves and their society as a result. He can be amusing about Ireland, too. In *The Potato Dealer* two men draw up their vehicles alongside each other on the public highway to do business, ignoring the hoarding of horrors: "They were of the neighbourhood, local people, the road was more theirs than strangers'."

Trevor has a fine ear for dialogue and something of a poet's feel for language. Which brings me back to my basic point. This writer is in his stories like a poet taking a deep breath and expanding upon the kind of people and events crystallised (say) in a few stanzas by Philip Larkin. More than one of these stories made me think of Larkin's poem *The Whitsun Weddings*, which also ends on just that note of ambiguous affirmation which Trevor favours as a way of ending things.



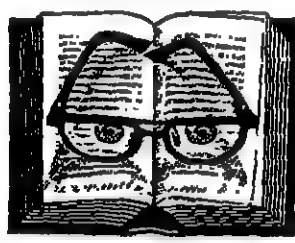
Trevor: prose poet

## Unsound remainders

FOR SOME years, second-hand and antiquarian bookshops have been in retreat. The trade has increasingly been conducted at fairs, by post, and now via electronic cataloguing and book-searches. Many small shops have closed or become outlets for the sorry booming trade in remainders.

Fairs are certainly flourishing. Coming up in London are the Chelsea fair, November 8-9, and an international fair of artists' books, at the Barbican, November 15-17. Yet the pendulum may be swinging back. The Antiquarian Book Arcade at 37 Great Russell Street is a year old. Run by Bohemian Bookworm, it acts as a display case for 50 or so dealers. Several dealers also show fine books in the basement of Jack Duncan Cartoons at 44 Museum Street.

A further sign of confidence in the traditional bookshop is the move of two prominent booksellers into pricey Mayfair premises. Simon Finch has bought a



BIBLIOMANE

whole building in Maddox Street. For the first time this will give him a shop-window, and he says he hopes people will be more likely to call in; but not too many people.

Bernard J. Shapiro has moved from Holland Park to 32 St George Street. Specialising in "literary" leather-bound, travel and plate books, Shapiro will presumably need to move into the same league as the long-established Maggs and Sotheby's. His most recent catalogue offered John Gould's own copy of his "Toucans" with nine plates by Edward Lear (large folio, 1834, £55,000).

ON NOVEMBER 26, Sotheby's will be selling an atlas compiled by the cartographer who coined the word, Gerardus Mercator (1512-94), and the British Rail Pension Fund is looking for more than £1 million. The atlas includes the only two known manuscript maps by Mercator and the only surviving copy of his 1554 wall-map of Europe, as well as two sections of the 1569 world map which was the first to use Mercator's projection. Did Sotheby's really need to give the story "spin" by claiming that "without Mercator's invention there would be no space travel"?

SURPRISING that Sheridan's set of Fielding has sat out the summer in Charing Cross Road: an interesting association. But while Sheridan was sound on the impeachment of Warren Hastings, he thought the French Revolution a good idea. Obviously not entirely sound.

JIM MCCUE

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## Bargains of the week — from seven days for £99 on the Costa Dorada to taking a cruise down the Nile

## HOTELS

A 50 PER cent reduction in the published room rate over Christmas is on offer from the May Fair Inter-Continental Hotel in central London. The rate from December 16 to January 12 is £135 a room a night including breakfast and VAT. Details: 0171-629 7777.

THE Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire, has an autumn break package of £78 a person for two nights based on double occupancy, including dinner, bed and breakfast. The offer is available until November 30. Details: 01298 22001.

THE White Hart Hotel, a 16th-century coach inn at Braintree in Essex, has a special pre-Christmas rate from November 28 until December 24 of £45 double and £36 single instead of the usual rates of £71 and £59.50 respectively. The only requirement is that you eat in the hotel restaurant. Details: 01376 321401.

THE Hyatt La Manga Club resort in Spain has a special room rate available until the end of the year, excluding Christmas and the new year, of 20,500 pesetas (about £100) a night for double occupancy instead of the usual rate of 31,500 pesetas. The offer is based on a minimum of two nights. Details: 0345 581666.

A HALLOWEEN break at Westover Hall in the New Forest costs £60 a person a night, including dinner when booked through Crystal Britain. The local ghost is reputed to be the nanny of the original owner, the German industrialist Alex Siemens. Details: 0181-390 8513.

THE three-day Christmas Special at Dukes Hotel in St James's Place, central London, includes Boxing Day transport to Kempton Park for the racing, as well as lunch and a gala dinner. Price is £550 a person for three nights. Details: 0171-491 4840.

GUESTS and day visitors to the 18 Novotel Hotels in the UK will be find apples in their rooms on October 21 to celebrate National Apple Day organised by Common Ground, the environmental charity. Details: 0181-2377474.

WINTER break rates at Jersey's Atlantic Hotel, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World Consortium, fall from £75 a person a night based on double occupancy to £65 a night from October 28 until December 19. Details: 01534 44101.

THE Grosvenor House hotel in London has pre-Christmas offers from December 3-15 at £170 a night based on double occupancy but not including breakfast. A brochure detailing other Christmas deals, including lunch discounts in the hotel restaurants is also available. Details: 0171-499 6363.

THE JOCKEY Peter Scudamore will be the guest speaker at the Hilton National in Newbury on November 29 for a Hennessy Gold Cup dinner. This is part of a two-night racing weekend package costing £226 a person. Details: 0345 581595.



Andalusia highlight: the town of Ronda that provided the setting for Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

## FERRIES

SEA FRANCE is selling a package of three day-returns on its Dover-Calais route valid for travel in October, November and December. The price is £23 for all three trips for a car plus four people. Two trips cost £16; otherwise day-trips cost £9 a time — with free sparkling wine on each crossing. Details: 0990 717171.

BRITANNY FERRIES offers a mini-cruise to Santander in northern Spain from Portsmouth or Plymouth for £49 a person, to include a cabin berth and afternoon in Santander. Details: 0990 360360.

IRISH FERRIES has introduced a winter fare from £105 for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route. The 48-hour return is valid until December 17. The same ticket on Holyhead-Dublin costs from £119. Details: 0345 171717.

## FLIGHTS

AMERICAN EXPRESS Gold and Platinum cardholders qualify for thousands of pounds worth of savings through the offer of flight upgrades and/or free companion tickets. The deals are valid during selected periods between now and 1997 with Qantas, American, Continental, Cathay Pacific and Emirates. Details: 01273 697272.

AIR UK has £59 excursion fares to Amsterdam, Paris and Rotterdam, provided you book today. Details: 0345 666777.

MAJOR TRAVEL has cut-price scheduled flights to New York. Return fares from Gatwick or Heathrow start at £230 in October, falling to £205 for travel in November. Details: 0171-485 7017.

ASIAN AFFAIR Holidays will fly two people to Singapore and Penang and provide seven nights' accommodation for £599 each. Details: 0171-439 3601.

ECONOMY passengers flying Philippine Airlines to Manila can upgrade to business class comfort and service for an extra £30. Details: 0171-499 9446.

Departures are from various UK airports. Details: 0161-740 8999.

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ECONOMY passengers flying Philippine Airlines to Manila can upgrade to business class comfort and service for an extra £30. Details: 0171-499 9446.

## HOLIDAYS

ANDALUSIA highlights feature in an eight-day coach tour available from Archer Tours. Flights are from Gatwick, Manchester, Cardiff and Glasgow on November 10. Prices from £335 a person. Details: 0181-466 6745.

POSTA Vecchia, John Paul Getty's former home north of Rome, now a Relais & Chateaux hotel, is included in four-day winter breaks on offer from CV Travel. Prices for two nights half-board at the hotel, a further night in a Rome hotel and return scheduled flights start at £680 a person. Details: 0171-589 0132.

A WEEK's self-catering on the Greek island of Thassos or on Spain's Costa Dorada for £99, both with flights from Gatwick next Tuesday, are among late offers from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

GET-FIT-to-ski cycling breaks, exercising the muscles used on the slopes, are available, from £125 a person, from Cotswold Cycling Company on three weekends between now and Christmas. Accommodation is at Cheltenham's Hallery House hotel. Details: 01242 250642.

PRE-CHRISTMAS skiing for half the high-season price is available from Meriski. The week from December 13, in luxury chalets, costs from £999 a person. Four-course dinners with receptions beforehand and a minibus shuttle to the slopes are included. Details: 01451 844788.

TURKEY and Israel breaks in Jersey in November are on offer from Modern Hotels for those who want to celebrate Christmas early. The price for four nights' half-board accommodation, including entertainment and return Condor crossing from Weymouth, is £109 a person. Details: 01534 874666.

GOLFERS can enjoy up to five rounds and two nights' bed and breakfast buffet at Hotel du Parc, northern France, with French Golf Holidays for £127 a person mid-week (£10 more at weekends), including return SeaCat travel. Details: 01277 374374.

EXPLORE Jordan for a week with Bales Tours for £575, with a flight from Heathrow on November 18, or for £499 leaving on December 2. The price includes bed and breakfast accommodation and sightseeing, including Petra and the Dead Sea. Details: 01306 876881.

NILE cruises aboard a traditional wooden boat with Oriental-style, open-deck area, "avoiding the typical floating gin palaces", are available from Travelbag Adventures as part of a nine-day Egypt tour with a departure on November 20. Prices including flights from £595 a person. Details: 01420 541007.

SIMPLY TROPIC is offering a ten-night holiday combining two of Asia's newest deluxe hotels, the Andaman on Langkawi, Malaysia, and the Conrad International, Singapore, for £985 a person from November 7 to December 10 with Malaysia Airlines flights. Details: 0181-875 1777.

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## This is the time for great bargains

Once the half-term surge is over, the travel industry will head into the winter doldrums. In resorts around the Mediterranean, the sun-shades are being stored away, beach bars are being dismantled, hotels closed for refurbishment and aircraft flown off to operate in parts of the world where summer is just around the corner.

But as the travel industry counts its profits, now is the time for canny folk with time to spare to take advantage of low prices and to grab a short break before the run up to Christmas.

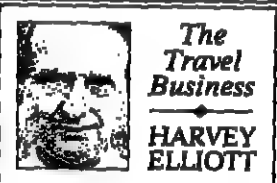
Some may want to catch the sun before winter turns the healthiest skin pale, others may prefer to stay nearer home to enjoy the lingering autumn colours.

Here are a few suggestions from my own favourites:

- **Dubai:** The industry's best-loved "secret" destination, Thomson is offering three nights in the five-star Jumeira Beach for £675 from November.

- **Cyprus:** An excellent time of year to visit the island, which can be brash and crowded at the height of the season. A week's holiday with flights and bed and breakfast accommodation at the Cyprus Maris hotel is available through Sunvil for £450.

- **Washington:** As the "fall" moves south, Virginia becomes spectacular. Virgin Holidays is offering return flights, with car hire included, for £329 a person. Accommodation in the United States is high quality but cheap.



- **Nice:** At this time of the year, finding hotel accommodation near enough to walk to the seafront is easy. Getting there now costs £149, with a British Airways World Offer, compared with the usual £220 return fare. With EasyJet, it costs £98 return, but flights are from Luton.

- **St Malo:** Overnight on Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth then drive to Bayeux and spend two nights at the Château de Sully, which now has a Michelin star. Return on the day service from nearby Caen. Price for two people and car, inclusive of cabin on the outward ferry, and dinner bed and breakfast at the château, is £210.50.

- **St Ives:** Anyone over 50 with an interest in music can have a four-night break with Saga at the Carbis Bay Hotel from November 4 for £169, not including travel. It includes lectures on the lives of the great composers plus music appreciation.

- **Scotland:** The Deeside Hotel at Ballater, near Balmoral, features three nights' accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast for £95. *Autumn Gold*, the Scottish Tourist Board brochure, has a wide range of travel offers, including two for one return flights and rail services.

- **The Cotswolds:** Four people can share the Old Dairy Cottage at Broadway for three days for a total of £165 with Country Holidays.

Me? I'm spending three nights at a country cottage near Bridport in Dorset. And despite my moans about Sorrento last week, I would still go back to Italy.

# Family's timeshare victory

By TONY DAWE

A FAMILY from Manchester has won back the money paid for a timeshare that failed to live up to its promises in an out-of-court settlement that could bring hope to many.

Stuart and Anne McBurnie agreed to buy a timeshare apartment in the Algarve for an off-peak week every year on the understanding that they could take their two small children to other properties in school holidays for a small extra charge. When they received the contract, however, they were horrified to read that holidays could not be taken in peak periods.

The McBurnies should have been protected by the Timeshare Act, which provides for a 14-day cooling-off period to allow purchasers to change their minds but the company offering the deal failed to send the details until three weeks after the initial agreement was made.

"We made dozens of phone calls but our complaints were fobbed off," says Stuart McBurnie. In desperation he turned to a local company that specialises in challenging dubious contracts and last week it succeeded in securing an agreement involving the refund of the £4,700 spent on the timeshare plus the cost of disputing the deal.

"It is a great relief to have won the case but it should be a warning to other timeshare clients," he says. "I made all the classic mistakes. I went along to the Holiday Exchange International presentation only because a free holiday was on offer but I got hooked on the idea."

A representative tried to

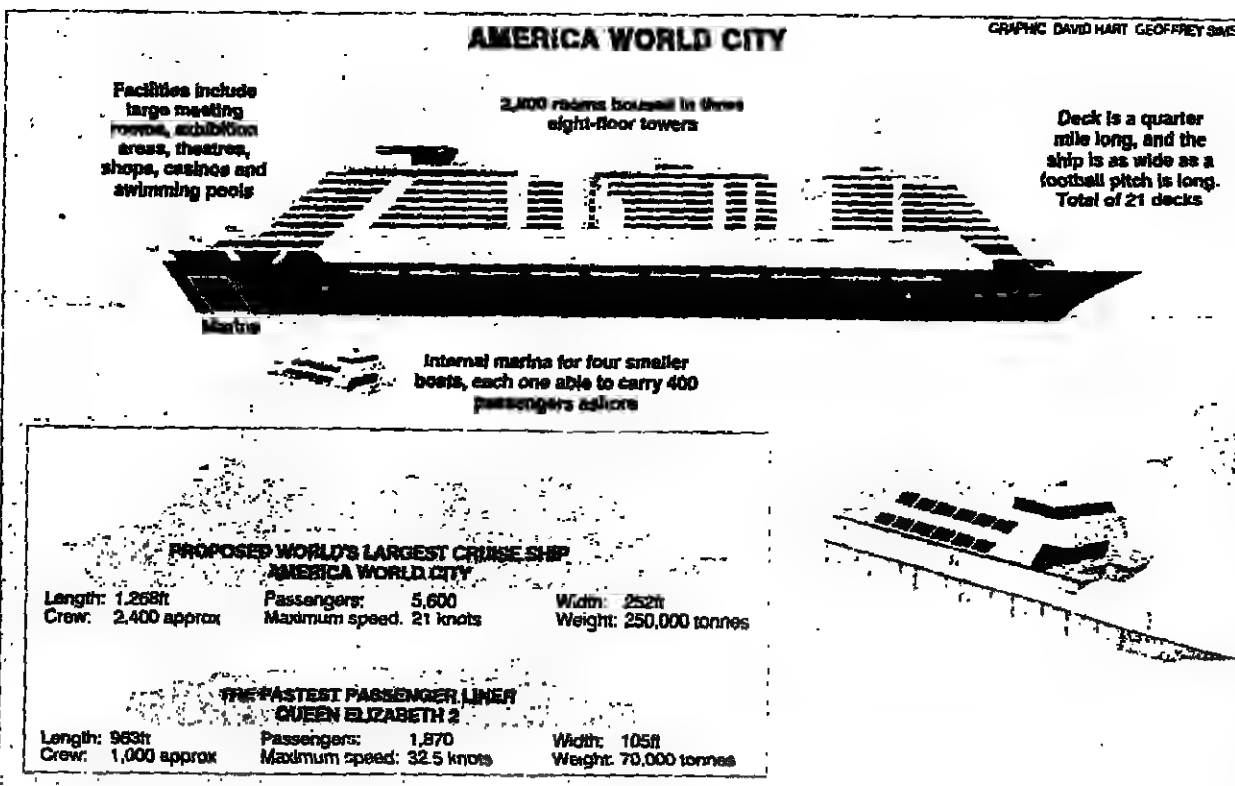
sell me an apartment for a peak period that I could not afford but I was persuaded to buy a cheaper one on the understanding that we would have easy access to other properties whenever we liked. The offer was made verbally, which proved useless when the contract finally arrived."

The McBurnies had entered into a finance agreement to pay for the timeshare and it was by pursuing the finance house, claiming misrepresentation of the terms of the contract and citing the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act, that they won the case.

Ian Wallwork, marketing director of Contract Consulting, which took up the case, says: "Thousands of families were attracted to timeshares because of the promise of cheap holidays in resorts around the world. Unfortunately, the 'go where you want, when you want' sales patter often turns out to be untrue."

But as Mr and Mrs McBurnie's case clearly demonstrates, if the contract is misrepresented there is a very good chance that families can get their money back."

The Timeshare Council, the trade association, says that Holiday Exchange offered to upgrade the McBurnies to a busier time of year without charge after receiving their complaint. A spokeswoman adds that the council receives about 30 complaints a week but most of them concern agreements signed by British holidaymakers in the Canaries and Balearics where a legal cooling-off period does not yet exist.



## World's largest floating city to navigate buoyant cruise market

By DAVID CHURCHILL

THE world's biggest cruise ship — more than twice the size of the current largest liner and more than three times the size of the QE2 — is due to be launched before the end of the decade by the US-based Westin Hotels Company.

The Westin ship, at 250,000 tonnes and carrying 8,000 passengers and crew, will take over the mantle of the world's largest liner from the 101,000-tonne *Carnival Destiny* which is being launched next week in Venice by Carnival Cruise Lines.

Carnival is the biggest cruise company in the world and also owns a 29 per cent stake in UK tour operator, Airtours. Carnival's ship will carry more than 3,350 passengers and replaces P&O's 77,000-tonne *San Princess* as the world's biggest cruise ship. Cunard's QE2 is just over 70,000 tonnes. The *Carnival Destiny* will also be bigger than the two 85,000-tonne liners *Disney* is due to launch in 1998 for cruises around the Caribbean from Florida.

But it is Westin's giant ship, named *America World City*, that has stunned the cruise world. "The ship will be a floating city on the sea," says Juergen

Bartels, chief executive officer of Westin. "We are very excited to enter the cruise ship business in such a historic manner."

Not everyone, however, believes that such a massive ship can pay off. "Our research has shown that the economies of scale and logistics of operating a large cruise ship suggest that about 100,000 tonnes is the maximum size to operate efficiently," says Michael Muller, managing director of Carnival Cruise Lines.

The *America World City*, which will cost \$300 million, will house its capacity of 5,600 passengers in 2,500 cabins. These will be located in three eight-floor towers on a deck a quarter of a mile long and as wide as the length of a football field. There will be 21 decks in total and the ship will also have a crew of 2,400.

A special feature of the vessel will be an internal marina in the hull. The marina will house four small boats, each able to carry 400 passengers ashore at destinations where the mother ship is too big to dock. Other facilities on the ship will include large meetings and exhibition space, theatres, shops, casinos and swimming pools.

The ship, which is due to go into service in 1999, will be the first major passenger vessel to be built in the United States for almost 50 years, and parts of it will be built in several American locations before final assembly. It will cruise the east coast of America and the Gulf of Mexico. Three more similar size ships are planned.

The trend towards large ship construction reflects both the buoyancy of the cruise industry — passenger numbers are expected to be about 20 per cent ahead this year — and the demand for more on-board facilities.

"We have to market ourselves more as floating resort hotels now," Mr Muller says. Carnival Cruise Lines has added on-board features such as a 200ft water chute for children, as well as the traditional pool, to cater for families.

The demand for cruise holidays has been fuelled by young families who are choosing them for their holidays and by the move by both Thomson Holidays and Airtours to launch low-price cruise holidays using their own ships.

## Kingdom loses its secrets

By TONY DAWE

A SECRET Kingdom in a remote corner of England will be revealed next week when a long-term campaign is started to make north Northumberland as popular with tourists as the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

Leaders of the local holiday industry, eager to cash in on the tourists boom in the area, which has fine beaches, the beautiful Cheviot Hills and a dozen handsome castles, have joined forces to create a partnership as part of one of the biggest tourism initiatives ever undertaken in the North of England.

The organisation — which has been awarded grants by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Rural Development Commission — has the blessing of the Northumbrian Tourist Board, which used to promote the area, together with County Durham, Tyneside and Wearside.

Peter Forrester, the project director of Marketing Partnership 2000, says: "We have decided that it is time to give the region its own identity. We will be promoting it as 'The Secret Kingdom' because the region used to be a kingdom in neolithic times and during the Dark Ages."

"It also played an important part in history with the dev-



White cattle at Chillingham Castle, where the Secret Kingdom campaign will be launched

lopment of Holy Island during the golden ages of light and learning and in the battles between the English and the Scots.

"We also want to encourage visitors to discover the interesting nooks and crannies that they might not normally find, such as the many spiritual prehistoric sites, and we have included quizzes in our new 40-page

guide to make exploring the region more fun."

Mr Forrester, who also runs a country café and store, has been joined in the partnership by 150 organisations with tourism interests, including hotels, guest houses, museums and caravan and camp sites.

Like all modern campaigns, The Secret Kingdom will have its own logo based on "a visual

interpretation" of the castle on Holy Island. It will be unveiled on Tuesday at the launch, which is being held at Chillingham Castle, the home of the distinctive white cattle of the same name.

Last year, Northumbria as a whole attracted more than three million visitors, about half the number who went to the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

## Ukraine plans to tempt tourists

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

UKRAINE — Europe's biggest country — is shaking off its post-independence torpor and making a determined effort to catch up with other former Soviet states in the race for economic prosperity.

More than 50 British businesses are now active in the country, which is bigger than France and has a population similar to the UK's.

Most visitors are West European businessmen but Ukrainian Government officials are convinced that the country could soon become a major tourist attraction.

The Government is spending £53 million on renovating and restoring some of the magnificent buildings, churches and monuments in the capital Kiev which were allowed to fall into disrepair and decay under communist rule and is seeking international investment to help to build new hotels for a meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in May 1998.

The hotels will, it is hoped, also provide sufficient rooms to accommodate the large numbers of potential tourists keen to visit such sites as the Great Gate of Kiev, St Sofia's cathedral and the mummified monks of Lavra.

Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union

in 1991 but is behind other former Soviet Union countries in reorganising its economy. But now Ukraine ministers have recognised the importance of tourism and are determined to make Kiev as attractive as possible to Western visitors.

Opponents claim that the expenditure on restoring old buildings would be enough to raise 600,000 pensioners up to the official poverty level.

The average salary of a teacher in Ukraine is £37.50 a month. Yet a room in the state-owned Dnipro Hotel costs a minimum of £72 a night.

But there is a friendly acceptance of the growing number of Western businessmen who use the increasing number of high-class restaurants and shops which are as expensive as those in London.

The state-owned Ukraine International Airlines is determined to distance itself from airlines of the former Soviet empire which have a worrying reputation for poor safety standards in the West.

Both Ukraine International and British Airways, which recently began flying to Kiev from Gatwick, expect to make handsome profits on the route with return fares which range from £182 for a round trip business class to £335 for an Apex return.

## Caribbean island promotes volcano

By TONY DAWE

TOURISM chiefs on the Caribbean island of Montserrat have decided to promote the active volcano, which has been threatening to engulf much of the British colony, as a tourist attraction rather than a menace.

They claim that the 3,000ft high Chances Peak is the only active British volcano and is a spectacular sight, especially on clear evenings.

"Where else on earth can you see such a natural phenomenon?" asks Gloria Bookbinder Mulder, of the newly formed Montserrat Initiative Group. "Visitors are fascinated when they see the volcano, and helicopter trips around its dome are proving very popular for those who wish for a closer view."

This enthusiasm echoes the mood of tourist officials in Iceland who report a surge of interest in the country because of the volcanic eruptions beneath Vatnajökull glacier but it contrasts dramatically with the reaction on Montserrat when the volcano first erupted in July last year after lying dormant for 400 years.

More than half the island's 11,800 population was evacuated to northern districts from Plymouth, the capital, and southern areas close to the erupting volcano. Hundreds of residents fled the island altogether and the Royal Navy destroyer *Southampton* stood by, ready for a mass evacuation if the volcano erupted fully.

Some southern residents have begun to return to their homes but Mrs Mulder admits that disruption to daily life continues, although the main offices and stores are functioning.

The tourism group claims that many of the island's attractions, including its famous black sand beach and much of the wildlife, have not been affected by the clouds of ash that have fallen from the volcano. The Sea Wolf diving school is continuing to operate, arranging shallow and deep dives to see the coral and tropical fish.

"The slogan of the Montserrat Tourist Board is 'The Caribbean as it used to be' and that is still true," says Mrs Mulder. "There is no building higher than three stories, no crime problem, not a single traffic light and we do not even have a McDonald's."

Most hotels, villas and apartments are open and tour operators are continuing to offer holidays to the island.

Jane Roche, the marketing manager of Simply Caribbean, says: "We are still selling villa holidays on the island and accommodation at the well-known Vue Pointe bungalow hotel but we are constantly monitoring the situation."

### IN THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend

- Jeremy Wayne in Geneva
- Canada special: Vancouver, Banff and Montreal
- Skiing: Switzerland
- Richard Binns on the plight of French hoteliers and chefs
- Britain: Hastings and Battle
- Cruising the Baltic

## France's big phone switch

By STEVE KEENAN

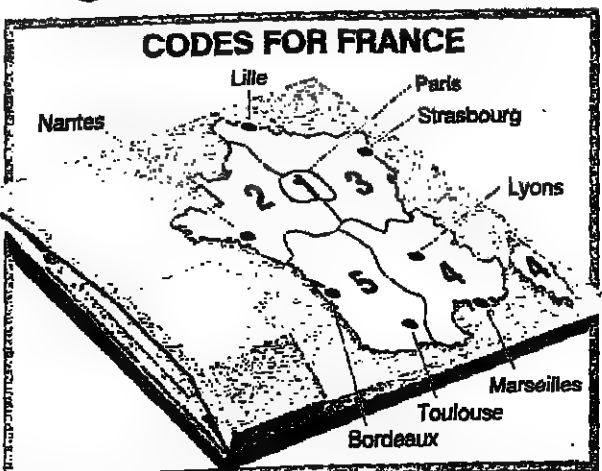
VISITORS to France will find every telephone number in the country, outside Paris, has changed this weekend.

More than 26 million numbers will have an extra digit added to the existing eight in the big switch, which will happen at 10 pm GMT tomorrow. But unlike a similar exercise in the UK, where "parallel running" enabled callers using the old number to get through for a limited period, this will not happen.

The new numbering plan will provide a "vast reserve" of numbers for several decades to come.

Most callers from the UK who forget to add an extra digit will hear a recorded message referring them to a BT or Mercury operator.

France Telecom has sent 1000 letters to businesses exporting to France, to French residents in the UK and to members of the French Chamber of Commerce. But tourists calling for information are bound to face a period of



confusion when they find that the number 0 has been added to all numbers on domestic calls. Callers from the UK will find no change to the six million Paris numbers that already have the digit 1 in already the normal eight digits. International dialling codes for Paris remain 00 33 (1), followed by the eight digits. The remainder of France has been split into four re-

## New Year trip of a lifetime

HUNDREDS of passengers are already booked to spend New Year's Eve 1999 celebrating in style in exotic destinations with Cunard Millennium cruises.

The most popular ship, says the company, is the QE2, which has already taken bookings from more than 100 passengers who plan to see in the year 2000 relaxing in luxury off the coast of Barbados.

And four other ships in the Cunard fleet which will be at sea as the next millennium begins are rapidly filling up. They will be making voyages to Acapulco, the Holy Land, Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands, and the Philippines.

The company is now accepting bookings with a £750 deposit for the cruises, described in a brochure called "It Only Happens Once Every Thousand Years".

## Awards hit the right note

EMPLOYEES of Britain's buoyant travel industry recreated the last night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall this week before the presentation of 22 TTG-American Express travel awards, writes Harvey Elliott.

More than 400 travel agents were invited to the ceremony by Kuoni as a "reward" for selling their holidays.

The winners were picked by readers of *Travel Trade Gazette*, the industry newspaper. British Airways, British Midland and Virgin each won a category in the business section with Britannia named as the top charter airline.

Other winners included Kuoni, Butlins, Cresta, First Choice, Inghams, Unijet, P&O Cruises and Stena Line. Thomson was named both the top major tour operator and the best short-haul operator. The travel writer of the year is the freelance Stanley Stewart.

# Barcelona

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# Can we really afford to eat cheap junk food?

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We live in an age of anxiety. We worry obsessively about the food we eat and our fears are fanned by a new scare almost every week. At the same time we have never been more aspirational.

We are consumed with a passion for the exotic, for experimentation and novelty. If it's new we want it, and we want it now.

You mean you don't have ostrich steaks? What kind of a place are you running? Where is the polenta, the saffron potatoes, the balsamic vinegar and the discreet dribble of truffle oil on the gyozaes? Bring out the lemon grass and lime leaf: bring on the seared tuna sashimi: astonish us with your basil-scented beurre blanc, your black bean salsa, your minted couscous and a taste of Pagnol tapenade.

Supermarkets are experts at detecting the slightest frisson on the gastronomic seismograph and search the world for tempting new tastes. They have skilfully laid their lines of supply on a global scale so that almost everything can now be had all year round.

These days, food has little to do with hunger, more to do with lifestyle. It was defined for me a few years ago in the Napa valley when I was on a tour around the latest fashionable boutique winery. "My husband," said our guide, "is into gerr-MAY. He's seriously

People are seriously into food and the way it is produced these days

organic." She conjured up visions of a connoisseur spending quality time at the stove.

I suspect, now that food and wine have been turned into a hobby, we're all into gourmet. Chefs on television, dazzle us with their skill. There are food game shows, food quizzes, food sitcoms and wine documentaries. Everybody has a cellar these days, even if it is only the cupboard under the stairs.

Our larders overflow with gourmet products. Food and wine sections dominate the weekend supplements and elbow pursuits such as DIY off the bookshelves. Gourmet has never had a higher or more profitable profile.

Guides abound to every aspect of gourmet, for we are desperately keen on making the correct choices. Is it organic? Is it ethically acceptable? Were the peasants who grew the coffee paid enough?

Knowing exactly what you are eating and drinking has never been more essential. The BSE catastrophe has alerted us all to the high price we have to pay for cheap food produced



DEREK COOPER

not for its quality but for its quantity. We are, rightly, worried about the methods used by the food and farming industry to fill our trolleys.

Decades of chemically dependent intensive farming, the use of drugs and antibiotics in the animal sheds, the presence of pesticide residues in vegetables, the potential dangers of new technology such as irradiation and genetic engineering, the widespread use of cosmetic additives to tart up junk food, have created a new kind of shopper — one who scrutinises labels and walks warily down the aisles.

It is the small producer who most actively responds to this request for more natural food, produced using farming methods that respect the countryside and animals. The new attitude to food production is forging links between consumers and farmers which have not existed before. Organic vegetable box schemes are no longer considered to be quirky.

Perhaps we need a new word for the kind of food and

drink that aspires to the highest standards. The umbrella label is currently "speciality" which implies luxury items for a niche market. It is an attitude that does the food and drinks industry a disservice.

Are we really happy to accept a situation in which there are two kinds of food — stuff produced cheaply which raises no expectations, and speciality products made in small quantities for a small market?

Polarising food in this manner has produced a two-tier market where the options are geared to price. You can have real cider or industrial cider; real ice-cream or a product made with vegetable oil; real cheese properly matured or slab cheese with no noticeable flavour; real sausages or those made from slurry.

Food made properly, for those who care about how they feed their families, and junk food for those who do not care or, more likely, cannot afford the option of good food — surely these options should not be embraced by a civilised society.

The lesson we should all learn from this festival, sponsored by *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Wine*, is that good food is not just for special occasions. If food is not good in every sense of the word we should not be producing it.

Derek Cooper is the presenter of Radio 4's *The Food Programme*



Visitors to this year's festival will find a wealth of expert information and a huge variety of new tastes to try out

## A feast for the gourmet palate

More than 27,000 food and wine enthusiasts are expected to attend the International Festival of Fine Wine and Food being held at Olympia for four days from October 24.

Michael Kallenbach on the pleasures awaiting visitors to the festival

and the emphasis is now firmly directed at guiding discerning consumers towards gourmet foods and high quality beverages. There will be about 220 exhibitors, split evenly between those presenting food-oriented

products, particularly speciality foods and ingredients, and those featuring wine, spirits, liqueurs and beers.

Displays will include British cheeses, Japanese dishes, Scottish delicacies, speciality foods, wine tours, cookery courses, international beers, and speciality drinks.

Demonstrations will be given on the mixing of cocktails and visitors to *The Sunday Times* Wine Club Taste Tunnel will be able to try single varietal wines and compare them to the aromas of the fruits, spices and herbs they are said to resemble.

Masterclasses sponsored by *WINE* magazine will feature tastings of classic vintages. All the major wine producing nations will be represented, displaying a comprehensive range of the differing styles and varieties of wines produced in the mid to upper price range.

Two new countries, Romania and the Ukraine, are making their debut on the British market. And while German beers will undoubtedly capture many palates, there will be other unusual beers from the Czech Republic and from South Africa.

A team of top chefs and wine experts will be passing on their secrets. Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook; Valentina Harris from Italy; Antony Worrall Thompson, bistro and Mediterranean specialist; and Bruno Loubet,

from the Odeon restaurant on Regent Street, will be among the experts.

Alastair Little, whose new restaurant in Lancaster Road, near Portobello Road, is wooing the crowds away from Soho, will be there and has coincidentally just brought out his third cookery book *Italian Kitchen* (Ebury Press, £19.99). "Italian cookery," he says, "with its honesty and full, sun-ripened flavours, has never been more popular." The book is based on Little's cookery course at La Cuccia in Umbria.

More than 60 per cent of the food exhibitors are small specialist producers or

importers of quality foods including farmhouse cheeses, foie gras, gourmet breads, oysters, olives, oils, chocolates, teas and coffees, and oriental sauces. There are also more exotic exhibits such as kangaroo, ostrich and alligator.

Leading supermarkets are promoting specific aspects of their business. Asda is sponsoring introduction to wine-tasting seminars. Tesco is showing its best-selling cheeses and sponsoring the British Cheese Awards Challenge and Sainsbury's is exhibiting its new fine foods section and showing why it has been chosen as best supermarket retailer of the year for the past two years by *Wine* magazine, which is co-sponsoring the festival with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Because of the licensing laws, no children under 18 can be admitted.



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we're sponsoring 2 wine tasting seminars. So why not pop along and try some of our excellent wine, or if you can't make it to Olympia, try these wine tasting packs — 4 white or red 18.75cl bottles of wine, FREE when you spend only £10 on wine at ASDA. Just hand in the voucher below and taste the difference — as well as pocket it!

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## Sampling the

Frances Bissell describes the joy of discovering all the culinary treasures on display at the festival

Whenever I give cookery demonstrations at the festival at Olympia, I try to leave myself plenty of time before or after, to visit as many stands as I can. It is an excellent opportunity to taste new products and to get reacquainted with old favourites, and all under one roof.

On the whole, the products you see are from small, specialist producers in Britain and abroad, without the mass market capabilities required by the supermarkets. Some of the items, however, will undoubtedly find their way onto the specialist shelves of the supermarkets' flagship stores.

If you were to plan your itinerary carefully, you could taste your way through a whole meal, although I am sorry to see the absence of specialist or organic meat producers this year, so no lovely smell of bangers to tempt you to the stand. But you can sample your way from oysters to anchovies from Cuan Oysters and La Monegasque respectively, right through to a fine selection of chocolates and other delights for after dinner from The Chocolate Club and Clements E Compagnia.

On the last stand, you will find Elvas plums, the authentic sugar plums so beloved of the Victorians at Christmas. Made in true artisan fashion and packed in attractive boxes

with hand-painted ceramics, these sweetmeats also make lovely and unusual gifts. I visited the Conservas Rainha Santa in Portugal not long ago, one of only two remaining producers, and I was much taken with the painstaking care taken with the fruit at all stages of preserving it. Portuguese food has not been so much in Britain, so the produce on this stand is particularly welcome.

As well as dried fruit, air-cured hams and chorizos from Lamego and Serra d'Estrela, you will find Conservas Rainha Santa cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil, and a range of infused wine vinegars, including one which contains wild oregano from the countryside around Estremoz, which the family members pick themselves. I shall also visit the Odyssey stand to have a look at some of the special Greek products. Their Illiada extra virgin olive oil is superb, and I always stock up on their olives whenever I am in Selfridges. They will also be launching "gigantes" beans and *barbounis*, a traditional Greek pasta from the northern mountains, as well as *kriyas* saffron and *trahana*. This *kriyas* is made from ground durum wheat, mixed with sheep's milk, then crumbled or ground into rice-size pellets, not unlike large couscous. It is used in

'You could taste your way through a whole meal'



# It pays to get out of the kitchen



Top chefs do not make money from restaurants, but from their TV shows, books and brand names, says Robin Young

These days, chefs figure in *Who's Who*. Michel Roux, who cooks for the Queen at the Waterside Inn in Bray, Berkshire, is in there beside his former employers, the Rothschilds, Anton Mosimann, formerly of the Dorchester and now of the eponymous dining club in Belgravia, nudges ahead of the Mosleys, and Raymond Blanc, of the Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, has the entry following that of the president of Air France.

True, the national guide to the great and good has not yet admitted the enfant terrible of haute cuisine, Marc Pierre White, surely the hottest name in catering. Nor has it made room for three-star Michelin men such as Pierre Koffmann, of Tante Claire, and Nico Ladenis, of Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane, but it does accommodate Keith Floyd to three-star chef rather than three stars. Inexplicably, Albert Roux appears only as an appendage to his younger brother, who is his co-author and television co-star.

Therein lies the point. It is their extra-curricular activities that bring these men fame and fortune. Leading chefs in Britain are now just as much involved in what the French call *le business* as their confrères on the Continent. Chefs no longer just cook in hotels and restaurants. They lead the national taste in matters of gastronomy. They are authors, television stars, promoters, franchisers and even, at their peak, brand names.

It is their achievement, by virtue of the wider exposure they have won, to have dragged the British lunching and dining classes kicking and screaming into the 20th century just before it ends.

We have the authoritative word of the *Good Food Guide* that British catering is better than it has ever been. When the *Guide* was founded 45 years ago, yogurt was unknown, olive oil was something you put in your ears to remove wax, and pepper was finely ground dust effective as sneezing powder and little else.

While Delia Smith, a phenomenally successful home cook, food writer and television populariser, but not making any claim to be professional chef or innovator, is still awakening slow learners to such things as cranberries, the competitive chefs at the forefront of the catering industry are hotfoot after every new ingredient, foreign cuisine or cooking style that might give them a competitive edge.

Their successful finds are quickly imitated by every other restaurant that can turn them to advantage, and are then picked up by the

supermarket buyers, the Delia Smiths and the home cooks. Hence such suddenly ubiquitous phenomena as chargrilling, stirfries, ciabatta, pesto, rocket, balsamic vinegar, filo pastry, La Ratte and Belle de Fontenay potatoes, coconut milk, lemon grass, miso and salsa.

Coming next to a restaurant and then a supermarket near you, perhaps, tuna carpaccio, truffle oil, ventriche bacon, smoked garlic, wild dried puffin, Scandinavian cloud and lingonberries, Alfonso mangoes from India, Vidalia onions from the United States, or even Ireland's fabulously flavoured and strangely overlooked Queens potatoes.

A quick look at those *Who's Who* entries shows partly how it works. Michel Roux, for example, lists six books co-authored with brother Albert, and the television series. He does not list, though, the legion of chefs the brothers have trained and sometimes installed in other establishments; nor does he list their contract catering, their fine food import-export business, French butchery, and airline consultancies.

Mosimann lists two television series, eight books and a large collection of gold medals, honours and awards, but does not refer to the outside catering company, the kitchen equipment, cookery and cutlery range, or the Mosimann-branded fine foods. Even the laid-back Floyd gets paid to put his name to leaves on

Safeway's shelves. You need not disbelieve the top men when they claim their restaurants do not pay. In such a labour-intensive industry it really is possible to produce dishes that cost £35 in man hours, ingredients and overheads. Customers then complain if they appear on the menu at, say, £26.

Top chefs work their hearts out, care passionately about what they are doing and test themselves to destruction to achieve their goals. But once they have made it into *le business* the rewards can be pretty satisfying, too.

Those *Who's Who* entries show Mosimann's recreation as "collecting art". Blanc's three Rs are "reading, riding and rock", and Michel Roux goes in for "shooting and skiing". A wider trawl of the headlines reveals that Richard Neate, of Pied-à-Terre, could contemplate retirement at 29, that when not in their kitchens our chefs are more than likely to be at luxury homes in the south of France, and that one raw newcomer to the Michelin stars, even before publishing his book, was giving his hobby as "scuba diving in Cambodia".

It is not work in the kitchen, but pretty cool on the outside.



Mark Hix, whose philosophy is to keep his recipes simple, is a rising star in the superchef firmament

## Babies have good taste

Michael Kallenbach on what turns a chef into a superchef

A BUTTERNUT squash recipe dreamt up by Mark Hix to use in a risotto proved so popular with his two-year-old twin daughters that it is being marketed this month by a new Glasgow-based company, The Original Babyfood Co, for its winter range.

Mr Hix is executive chef at two of London's most fashionable restaurants, Le Caprice and The Ivy, and, at 33, is one of the rising stars in the superchef firmament.

His move into the baby-food market is a result of his habit of experimenting with new recipes at home and sometimes asking his daughters to taste them. His own enthusiasm for new tastes and unusual ingredients will ensure that he will be exploring the various stands at the festival next week.

"Tastes have changed so much in recent years. People are much more aware of ingredients and are willing to try out new things," he says. "Coriander and lemon grass, for instance, are not a combination that would have been used in the past. Awareness now is largely due to the influence of major supermar-

kets and television. I personally like simple foods, especially those that use salads and herbs."

Mr Hix began cooking after rejecting metalwork in favour of a domestic science course at school and did his instructors proud with his first upside-down pineapple cake. He then opted for a two-year cookery course at Weymouth College where he found he had a knack for developing new skills and ideas.

His first job was at the Park Lane Hilton's staff canteen. He has worked at the Candlewick Room in the City which earned a red M in the Michelin Guide.

"My philosophy," he says, "is to keep it simple and affordable — unless you're splurging and opting for foie gras and truffles. Ideas develop from ideas. First I try

something out with colleagues and then in the restaurant, and eventually it takes off with the customers."

Des McDonald is the head chef at The Ivy, and Kevin Gratton is his opposite number at Le Caprice. Mr Hix meets both of them for a quick breakfast every morning to iron out problems, by which time ingredients will have been ordered and delivered. "We taste and test the food throughout the day, and make sure the staff knows what is available." Each week he and the other chefs meet the proprietors for a tasting session.

As a consultant, Mr Hix has taken his skills as far afield as the Middle East and the Caribbean, and last year he was involved in launching Caprice Events to cater for the individual needs of regular clients.

The company was formed after Vanity Fair asked the restaurant to cater a charity dinner for 350 at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park. More recently, Mr Hix flew to Long Island, in New York, especially to cook for a regular customer who desired his particular expertise.

## Thirsty Brits have a nose for fine wine

Jane MacQuitty on the popularity of the mid-priced bottle of plonk

London is still the wine capital of the world. Nobody does it better than the UK's wine buyers, merchants, auctioneers, commentators and, yes, even wine writers. Our long-standing tradition of not producing much wine of our own and our location — slap bang in the middle of the modern wine-producing map — has made us a formidable source of wine expertise.

More tempting to the world's wine producers is our underdeveloped wine consumption. True, our annual per capita consumption of wine has grown in the past 30 years from a paltry two litres a head to an impressive 16 litres. And it is still growing at a healthy rate, up by over 15 per cent between 1994 and 1995. Compared with other Europeans, however, we are abstemious. The French drink more than anyone else, knocking

and Germany, have lost out heavily to this increasingly strong New World competition, whose easy, upfront fruity wines with straightforward single-grape variety labels have wide appeal. And in case Old World producers want to persist in their ostrich-like ways, they should note that South Africa and Chile both experienced 100 per cent sales increases here last year.

Leading this new era of wine are the supermarkets, which between them account for 80 per cent of all wine bought in the UK. A further 9 per cent is split between wine warehouses, merchants and wine clubs. This puts the independent wine merchant's share at about 5 per cent. But though I sympathise with their dwindling trade and feel sore that most wine sold in this country is priced at £3.99 and below, there is not much point in whining, as some have, at

'Chile had a 100 per cent increase in sales last year'

prices such as £2.99, £3.99 and £4.99, considering the lack of money any of us have left in the kiny each week to spend on wine.

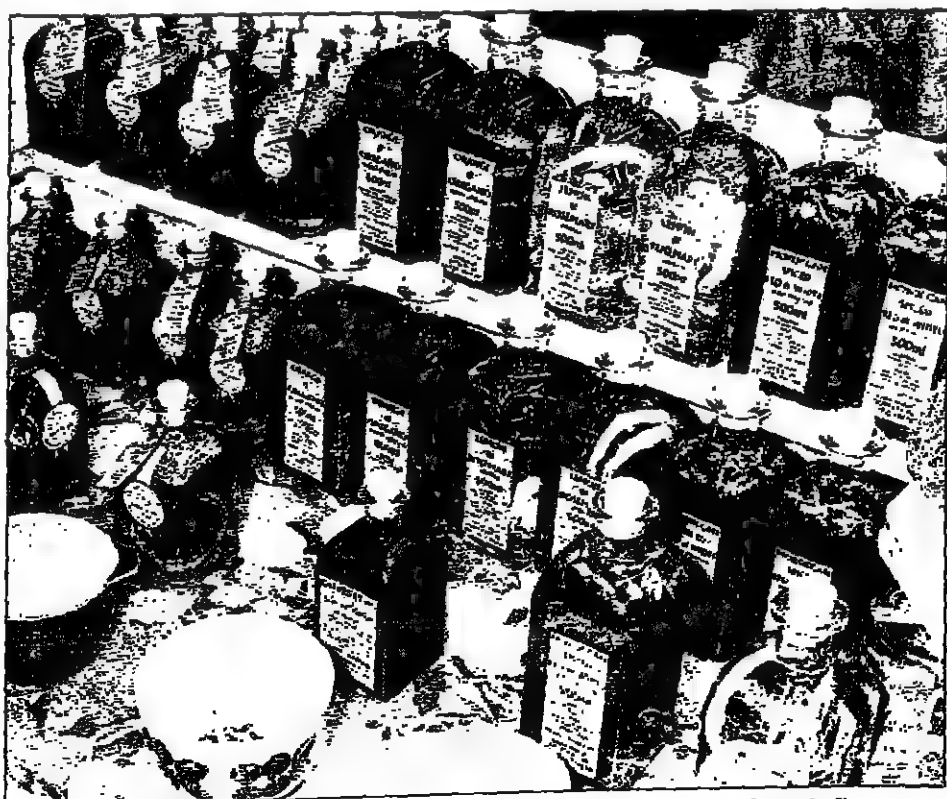
Wine merchants and writers regularly spread the word that once fixed costs for the £2.99 bottle, such as duty, shipping and bottling charges are considered, only a few pence is actually spent on the wine within. So you get one whole extra pound's worth of wine if you trade up to a £3.99 bottle and two pounds' worth if you trade up to a £4.99 bottle.

The message is beginning to filter through to the drinker: the £4 and £5 sector of the market is the fastest-growing by far, up by 12 per cent last year. But if you intend to drink wine every day, the £2.99 bottle still has life in it. It is, incidentally, infinitely more difficult to find wines under £3 that are drinkable than say under £5, so look out for the first issue of my *Top 100 Wines of Winter* feature out next month.

Supermarkets are gradually starting to give their wine customers some of the perks that previously they would have found only at the better sort of wine merchant. Many are now offering free tastings for their customers and providing advanced wine training schemes for their staff.

My hunch is that it's onwards and upwards for the UK's supermarket wines.

## delights of the specialists



Even the humble bottle of vinegar can come in many different and exotic flavours

thick soups and stews, and to stuff vegetables — an excellent addition to the store cupboard staples.

Danar International is the stand to visit if you love all things Italian. Pasta, organic extra virgin olive oils, vinegars and roasted vegetables in oil are just some of the lines on show. But you will also find lemon-infused olive oil and pasta made from emmer wheat.

Closer to home, there is much to please the anglophile gourmet. Mead and flavoured cordials, such as elderflowers and ginger could not be more traditional. At the James White stand, you will find a range of flavoured apple

juices, such as apple and cinnamon and apple and blackberry, but I think their individual freshly pressed apple juices from Bramley, Cox and Russet are hard to beat. Not so much for drinking, but using as a cooking ingredient, I shall be noting round a couple of drink stands: J Wray and Nephew for the Appleton Estate and King Offa Distillery for the Hereford Elder Brandy, Aperitif and Li-queurs. The latter will be very good in a custard to accompany an apple pie.

If you are looking for something to spice up your cooking, The Curry Sauce Company, Greenwich Herbs and Spices, Mrs Bassa's Indian Kitchen,

Samarkand Gourmet Spice Blends and Karimix should, between them, have some for you. On the last stand, you will find some unusual pickles and relishes with flavours of Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, such as aubergine pickle, pineapple achar, and a Sri Lankan tamarind chutney.

For all this exotic and flavoursome food, a hunk of good bread would be just the thing. Until relatively recently, good bread was what you made at home. But a number of small independent bakers have been making a name for themselves, and their uncompromising standards. They are

now joined by, among others, De Gustibus, Baker, Dan Schickentanz, uses nothing but organic flour, purified water, and sea salt to make his bread, but perhaps his most important ingredient is time. Bread that is allowed to ferment slowly is incomparable, and this year a six-day sourdough bread will be featured.

To go with good bread, there is nothing better than good cheese. And no cheese is better than British cheese. You will find the real Wensleydale made at Hawes creamery on the Wensleydale Dairy Products stand, and a bronze medal winning vintage farmhouse cheddar from Lye Cross Farm on the Alvis Bros stand. But to see and taste the world class cheeseboard, save plenty of time to visit the Cheese Challenge on the British Cheese Awards stand. I know I will.

Just a few weeks ago, 469 British and Irish cheeses were entered for the awards. Like was compared with like in a large number of different classes, and only the best gained medals. The supreme champion was the Lincolnshire Poacher, a modern British hard cheese, characteristic of the region, whilst the best new comer was a hard unpasteurised buffalo milk cheese, made by Malvern Cheesecravings. I have found this a good cheese to serve to guests who like to play guessing games. Indeed, it is a very long time since I have served other than a British cheeseboard to guests. Here on the stand, you will be able to meet some of the cheese makers, and taste their produce, and the Cheese Challenge will enable you to test your knowledge of British cheeses, with questions and a tasting.

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FINE WINE AND FOOD

Thousands of fine wines to try and buy from France, Spain, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Greece, The Czech Republic, Chile, Romania, England and the USA.

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The debut of The Cheese Village, incorporating the British Cheese Awards Cheese Challenge, sponsored by Tesco.

The ever popular Sunday Times Wine Club Taste Tunnel.

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FREE cookery demonstrations, by the country's top chefs, such as Antony Worrall Thompson, Alastair Little, Sophie Grigson and Frances Bissell, in The Mark Wilkinson Celebrity Kitchen.

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Admission includes complimentary Schott Zwiesel ISO wine glass, free show catalogue, free tastings and demonstrations and free delivery of purchases by White Arrow Express.



# Taste wines with the experts

**Michael Kallenbach**  
on the  
widening  
appeal of the  
grape

Novice drinkers as well as wine connoisseurs will be able to indulge in wine-tasting rituals at the festival and there will be plenty of opportunities to exchange opinions and ideas and discover bargains.

There will be 48 advanced tutored tastings on specialised themes such as "entertaining with bordeaux" and "Californian wine styles". And in line with the current popularity of expertly matching foods with wines, there will be a room featuring seminars such as pairing chardonnay with smoked foods, and Spanish seafood with sherry.

Philip MacGregor, who will hold several wine tastings during this year's festival, says that in recent years the snobishness has gone, and that fine wine is as likely to be available in a supermarket as it is in a specialised wine store.

Mr MacGregor has been tasting and testing wines for 12 years and will be among the presenters at "Swirl, Sniff and Slurp" arranged by the Association of Wine Educators. The association will be organising as many as 40 tastings during next week's show.

One session will focus on the technique of tasting, another will examine essential differences between wines of the New World and the Old World, and a third will explore forgotten grape varieties.

In the art of slurping, Mr MacGregor will painstakingly explain the mysterious procedures and language of tasting and the reasons behind them. "Once people get to like wine, they want to know more about it," he says.

Wine tasters like Mr MacGregor are insistent that they should not become involved in selling wines. "We sell education, not the product. If the customer likes it, they must get it themselves, otherwise we can't be objective."

For those who are interested in gaining diplomas and certificates, Gareth Lawrence, course manager at the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, is the man to talk to. Coming from a family who were involved in the wine trade, Mr Lawrence teaches a wide range of courses, from those for pure beginners to others for the more advanced, involving a diploma course over two years which costs £550.

During the festival, the Trust will explain details of matriculation, and have on hand a wide variety of chardonnay wines from countries such as Hungary and France.

In addition, "Wine and Wood" will show how the ageing of wine in various types of oak can affect the final flavour.

Mr Lawrence points out that the trust, which has been in existence for 25 years, is committed to providing high-quality wine education, not only for the trade, but increasingly for the consumer.

Wine experts point to the increase in sales over recent years, and attribute much of the success to New World wines, their easy-to-read and pronounce labels, coupled with major promotion campaigns by leading supermarkets. Non-French speakers, for instance, need not feel embarrassed if they do not know how to pronounce Chateau Neuf du Pape. Instead they can opt for a Glen Ellen from California, or a Shiraz from Australia.

Penny Thair, Asda's wine marketing manager who will represent her company next week at Olympia 2, attributes the increase in wine sales to more affordable prices. "Beer and wine are not mutually exclusive," she points out.

She adds: "In the past women rarely ventured into liquor stores, and if they did, they were made to feel rather uncomfortable. But women are no longer intimidated since in supermarkets there are always a good range of wines available."

Historically, older men have always taken to wine and younger women, she says, but all that is changing now. "These days interest is divided 50-50 along gender lines."

Mr MacGregor, who will be explaining grape varieties during his tastings, agrees that that wine courses today attract both sexes and age is never a barrier.



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"Ah yes, that unmistakable aroma of eucalyptus and wild Languedoc herbs. Would you say this oak-aged syrah was typical of southern France?"

CASILDA GRIGG

## How to cope with a joyous bounty

Look around the stalls before you start your eating and drinking

For anyone with a passion for food and wine, a day spent eating and drinking sounds like heaven. However, if you've never been to a food festival, it is as well to be aware of the pitfalls.

The first problem is that the stands are not arranged in any logical order. Well, not as far as your stomach is concerned. You can — and probably will — find yourself sampling Christmas cake, followed by smoked salmon, chocolate and sushi. The only thing to do if you want to be sure to avoid what the French call a *crise de foi* (upset rum) is to have a good look around first. Make a mental note of what you want to taste then plan a reasonable gastronomic running order.

However, the discomfort of overeating pales into insignificance against the more drastic effect of consuming too much alcohol. When you have poured a glass of perfectly nice wine, the natural reaction is to take a sip, think "Mmmm that's nice" and polish off the glass. If you do that half a dozen times (depending on your level of tolerance) you feel pleasantly lightheaded. Do it 12 times and you'll find yourself having to clutch on to your fellow passengers for support on the way home on the Tube.

What if you ignore all this good advice and overdo it? How do you deal with the hangover? Personally, I'm not a member of the Fernet Branca school of hangover cures — which is to swallow something so repellant it shocks the system into submission.

The answer is simply to drink as much water as you can before you go to bed and start the next day with a huge glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and couple of aspirin. Then you'll be ready to face the world.

FIONA BECKETT

'On the whole, any food goes with any wine if conversation is buzzing'

Food and wine unite people... and people unite food and wine. Exactly what to eat with which food has long been a subject for debate. Ask a hundred people and the top answers will be: "I don't know a lot about wine but I know what I like." "Any wine so long as it is white, sweet and cold." "I'll have what the rest of you are having."

Restaurant wine lists suggest that certain wines are suitable to drink with particular foods "excellent with fish or chicken" is writ after a white Burgundy; "wonderful with seafood" after a New Zealand Sauvignon. Should you believe them? Why not? They want you to come back. Is it sensible to ask the wine waiter for advice? Yes and no. Yes if you ask: "What is the best light red wine under £15 to go with my mixed grill?" No if one of your orders steak, the other fish stew and you want to economise. (Pointless to ask whether the sommelier would recommend the pink plonk at £8. The more expensive your wine, the bigger is his tip, so he would be insane to tell you that pink plonk at £8 is ace, especially as it will not be.)

There are in food and wine a few marriages made in heaven: walnuts and vintage port spring to mind; ripe white peaches with champagne... so brilliant that Italians liquidise the fruit, add it

to the wine and call it a Bellini.

Goose liver, with or without truffles is enhanced by glasses of very cold dessert wine. Chateau d'Yquem if money is no object, but there are excellent first growth barsacs: Climens, Ricote, Sauternes and Coutet cost far less and are very fine. Store the glasses in the deep freeze.

There are combinations of food and drink which are strictly for the home: braised oxtail which deserves strong ale to quaff rather than sip; Irish stew with which nothing is as right as a nice hot cup of strong Indian tea. You cannot have that in restaurants, not even with the mark-up on tea at 1,000 per cent. When it comes to profit, restaurants need high volume and even a big gain on a 10p commodity is only just enough to pay for the one in 24 teaspoons nicked by customers, the one in 10

cups or saucers or both broken by waiters, not forgetting the crooked cashier.

I believe that Beluga caviar is better accompanied by overproofed lemon vodka; and I advise home consumption because it is difficult to leave restaurants after a few glasses of super-alcoholic nectar.

Watercress does funny things to your palate — makes it very hard to appreciate good wine, does a plate of watercress salad. So, look on the bright side, if the wine you have bought is iffy, bring on watercress.

When the French want a dinner party to end, along comes a tray of glasses containing grapefruit juice, shorthand for "time to go home". As this signal is not internationally understood, we tend to lower the quality of what people are drinking and just hope they take the hint.

Give them champagne; champagne goes with just about any food and if £15 a bottle, about as cheap as decent champagne gets, is too

high a price to pay, there are many good sparkling wines in champagne-shaped bottles. The Australians make excellent sparklers for under £7. Try Yalumba.

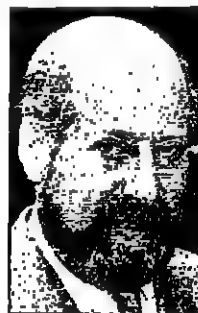
Rather as it is always a mistake to experiment with food when you have guests you want to impress, so make sure the wine you serve is tried and more or less trusted. Read wine writers, buy what they recommend and if you like what you purchase, accept that this is a writer whose tastes you endorse and buy other suggestions he or she publishes. (If you disapprove of his or her selections, read another columnist.) On the whole, any wine goes with any food, especially if the conversation is buzzing, but avoid obvious pitfalls: wine at the wrong temperature; red wine with shellfish; acidic salads when you are drinking soft smooth red wines.

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## Navigate the dinner-party minefield



CLEMENT FREUD

And I believe that it is pointless giving people better fare than they can appreciate. There are a huge number of men and women who truly don't care about food and drink (I think I have had most of them to dinner in a journalistic capacity). To them, it is the thought that counts: the label or the shape of the bottle is more important than the contents.

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## Go to school in the kitchen

**Elaine Hallgarten**  
looks at the options  
for improving  
culinary skills

taught by Italians — her chef is, she states, "a genius" — the youngest Michelin three star chef in Italy, (0181-208 0112).

On the other hand, French Country Kitchen Holidays (0171-924 7982), based in the Lot et Garonne, are taught by a collection of well-known British chefs. Tuition is interspersed with visits to the market and much eating and drinking.

Ireland is a favourite holiday destination, with good food too. Many of the country's best chefs have been inspired by Myrtle and Darina Allen at Ballymaloe, Ballymaloe Cookery School (Shanagarry, Co Cork, Ireland) (00 353 21 646785) is ideal for a short course and the opportunity to enjoy the special charm of County Cork.

London's cookery schools — Cordon Bleu at 114 Marylebone Lane, W1M 6HH (0171-935 3503) and Leith's School of Food and Wine at 21 St Alban's Grove, W8 5BP

(0171-229 0177) — are geared to serious professional students but also run shorter courses for the amateur. Thierry Dumouchel, technical director of the Cordon Bleu, believes that after only one lesson you should be able to cook a wonderful meal at home. Leith's director, C J Jackson, thinks cooks can gain confidence as well as ideas and recipes.

Her views are echoed by Linda Collier, author of the recently published *The Baking Book*, whose career started with a Cordon Bleu course.

Busy working people who entertain single-handed are targeted in Lyn Hall's Bachelor Cooks course. She has teamed up with kitchen designers Bullthorp to run a series of classes. Participants cook and eat a complete menu, developing invaluable cooking skills. (0171-584 6841).

Entertaining Ideas (07050-387 387) are just that — cookery demonstrations in a kitchen in London's Portobello Road. The combination of plenty of food and wine and the chance to learn the secrets of some of London's glitziest chefs is proving to be a huge success. Such luminaries as Anton Edelmann of The Savoy, Matthew Harris of Bibendum and Jean Christophe Novelli are among the line-up.

## A rare chance to sample the world's best

From high-street regulars to niche wines, all you need is a glass

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"Ah yes, that unmistakable aroma of eucalyptus and wild Languedoc herbs. Would you say this oak-aged syrah was typical of southern France?"

CASILDA GRIGG



Award-winning cheese displays from previous festivals

## British cheeses top the taste test\*

Juliet J. Harbutt on the successful revival of the cheesemaker's craft

At this year's British Cheese Awards, sponsored by Tesco, there were 469 entries spread over 53 different classes. Eighty-seven were Cheddars, 63 goat and 144 unpasteurised — they ranged from the sublime to the occasionally truly ridiculous, unless you like the idea of Cheddar with chocolate chip.

The judges select only the best, which are given the right to carry the symbol of excellence, a gold, silver or bronze medal rather than simply choosing first, second or third — an impossible task if all the cheeses are wonderful or worse if they are not.

British cheese has come a long way in the last ten years and is as good as anything you will find in Europe. At a recent tasting, I threw down the gourmet gauntlet to some chefs, who will remain nameless, to name the country of origin of 25 artisan cheeses.

Shoulder-struggling and superior laughter followed by furious munching as the cheeses proved more challenging than expected.

The tiny goat cheese and the wickedly creamy ones with pungent aromas were assumed to be French. Hard cheese with unusual tastes were mostly picked as goat or ewe's milk cheese from Spain. Britain was given credit for the wonderful, hard crumbly

cheeses for which we are best known — Cheshire, Wensleydale, Caerphilly and Lancashire but the Cheddar-like cheese with its rich nutty complex flavour was presumed to be Italian or French.

The blues were the most controversial. The chefs felt it was unfair to include obscure European artisan blues which rarely find their way to the British market.

At the end, when I reviewed the results, I was not popular. The cheeses were all British, demonstrating that the renaissance of British artisan or farmhouse cheeses is not just a marketing ploy.

The voluptuous goat's milk "Camembert" was delicious, the sheep's milk blue indescribably good and the hard cheeses of unusual flavours were superb examples of modern British cheese — hard cheeses made using the Cheddar process from cow, goat, sheep and even buffalo milk.

And of course the rich nutty cheese was quite simply a magnificent example of a clothbound, matured, unpasteurised Cheddar.

To discover how much you really know about British cheese come to the British Cheese Awards Cheese Challenge at the festival and taste to of the medal winners from this year's awards, including the Supreme Champion. You will not be disappointed.



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## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Great Britain face test of tactics and temperament

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN AUCKLAND

GREAT Britain have had anything but an enjoyable time since their arrival in New Zealand. The first match was drawn and the second lost, yet their self-belief is intact on the eve of the three-match international series that starts here tomorrow.

For the underdogs to justify their apparent confidence, Britain must resist the temptation to throw the ball about, a tactic that proved successful in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. New Zealand, who possess a big and highly mobile pack, must first be ground down.

Terry O'Connor's recall brings a reassuring, driving presence to the front row. O'Connor, the Wigan prop, was a disappointment against Papua New Guinea, but has worked hard since. His return is the only change to the side involved in the record 72-4 defeat of Fiji, a result that will have little bearing on the forthcoming series.

It is 12 years since Britain were last beaten over three matches by New Zealand. Notable under-achievers since then, the emergence of a solid home team — rather than one of disparate talents flung together — seems from the advent, two years ago, of Auckland Warriors.

Ten of the 17 players in the New Zealand squad play for Warriors and will be on home soil tomorrow at Ericsson Stadium, which was built within the crater of an extinct volcano. Under floodlights yesterday, Britain were reac-

quainted with the venue at which they secured the 1990 series. Phil Larder, the Britain coach, is without Robinson, Connolly and Newlove, and is therefore at least three players short of an obvious winning formula. It is the spirit in a young side, similar to the one in 1990, that he must summon. The players are "mature enough" to recover from the

ously flattered to deceive. "Watching them against Papua, I was thoroughly impressed, but we've studied them closely and there are weaknesses we can exploit if we can play the way we can," he said.

Six years ago, Bobbie Goulding struck up a half-back partnership with Garry Schofield that brought Britain victory, and he is developing a similar rapport with Iestyn Harris. The two are rooming together and spark off each other, on and off the pitch. It is in midfield, with Andrew Farrell an inspirational leader, that Britain can cause an upset, provided that the containment job is done first.

The way that Britain disintegrated against a National League team before recovering to draw will have greatly encouraged New Zealand, who give Tyrone Smith a full debut at loose forward, and bring Logan Swann, an Auckland reserve-team player who

figured in the 30-22 defeat of the Great Britain midweek side by an invitation XIII on Tuesday, to the substitutes' bench. Larder has delayed naming his four substitutes.

St Helens are leading the race to sign Richie Blackmore, the New Zealand centre. Formerly with Castleford, Blackmore is keen to return for a second spell in Britain. David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said: "We are interested in signing Richie, who has alerted several clubs he is available."

## TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (Auckland unless stated): 14. Ridge (captain), 15. Hogg (captain), 16. Blackmore, 17. Tait (captain), 18. Blackmore, 19. Tait (captain), 20. Blackmore, 21. Tait (captain), 22. Blackmore, 23. Tait (captain), 24. Blackmore, 25. Tait (captain), 26. Blackmore, 27. Tait (captain), 28. Blackmore, 29. Tait (captain), 30. Blackmore, 31. Tait (captain), 32. Blackmore, 33. Tait (captain), 34. Blackmore, 35. Tait (captain), 36. Blackmore, 37. Tait (captain), 38. Blackmore, 39. Tait (captain), 40. Blackmore, 41. Tait (captain), 42. Blackmore, 43. Tait (captain), 44. Blackmore, 45. Tait (captain), 46. Blackmore, 47. Tait (captain), 48. Blackmore, 49. Tait (captain), 50. Blackmore, 51. Tait (captain), 52. Blackmore, 53. Tait (captain), 54. Blackmore, 55. Tait (captain), 56. Blackmore, 57. Tait (captain), 58. Blackmore, 59. Tait (captain), 60. Blackmore, 61. Tait (captain), 62. Blackmore, 63. Tait (captain), 64. Blackmore, 65. Tait (captain), 66. Blackmore, 67. Tait (captain), 68. 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# A fly on the school wall

720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693. 90.9. WORLD SERVICE. MW 848. LW 105.8; MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053. 1089. Televised Smith, Susan Thomson. Jane Dear, Ian Hughes. Rosemary

SHAW, GARY, THOMSON, J.



TOTAL

**Reader's Digest**



# A good night on BBC2, but don't quote me

A worrying time for anyone with a gift of quotation last night, because the first instalment of *Testament: The Bible in Animation* (BBC2) kept coming up with fabulous, deathless lines which somehow we'd never heard before. "Hail back the daylight," cries Pharaoh in anguish, carrying his dead son in his arms; his small figure seen from above, as a small dot. "Everything I love," he beams, in close-up. "Why can I keep nothing? I had a friend among the Hebrews once." Meanwhile Moses stands on a cliff above the Red Sea, his white hair flowing, staff in hand, commanding the waves. And the temptation to comment in a big deep voice "Blow winds and crack your cheeks" is almost overwhelming. I enjoyed *Testament* so much I watched it twice. Such grandeur you don't expect at 7pm. The vocal performances of Simon Callow and Martin Jarvis as Pharaoh and

Moses were splendid, and Nigel Fawcett's script not only added thoughtful themes (such as an invented childhood friendship between Moses and his oppressor), but spared us the plague of boils, which was a relief. Only the animation style (by Gary Hurst) was hard to get used to. Long, angular people never went anywhere without long, angular shadows. Their faces split straight down the middle between light and dark, and they all had chins that jutted forward, like Desperate Dan. Pharaoh's sidekick had a jackal-head (literally) but everyone was too polite to mention it.

Personally, I was never too happy about the *Animated Shakespeare* project — the bare bones of the story being generally the least satisfying aspect of a Shakespeare play. But bits of the Bible are a fair game, especially as the English-speaking world has long stopped making biblical epics, and all the theatrical sundial-makers, camel-handlers, and burning-bush specialists have gone tragically belly-up. Last night's 30-minute *Moses* is probably the first such drama since Burt Lancaster starred in *Moses the Lawgiver*, all of 20 years ago. Last year I met an actor who was just heading for North Africa to play Samson's Dad in a new film, and it sounded wildly improbable, like an exercise in time travel.

Still on BBC2 (but changing the subject) one of the incidental delights of *Two Fat Ladies* is that the innkeeper comes like a lifetime parent in a play by Peter Nichols — they can never let a trigger-word pass without supplying the appropriate adage or quote. "Wake up Jennifer," you can imagine Chrissie Dickson Wright saying to her companion. "Right-oh, Christians awake, salute the happy morn," replies her chum, cheerfully. If they are having trouble with a map, they are poor little lambs that have lost their way. When they stand on the deck of a fishing boat, they are obliged to say "Captain, art thou sleeping down below?" Jennifer wipes her fingers and declares that all the perfections of Arabia will not sweeten those little hands. "It looks rather like a Union Jack," says

Jennifer, indicating a meal of with criss-crossed bacon on its back. "Rue, Britannia," sings Chrissie, without hesitation. Two *Fat Ladies* is terrifically, partly because the food is as big and forthright as the presenters. Eating low-fat rice pudding from a tin while Jennifer Patterson "squished" lamb's kidneys into a big bowl full of raw organic mince. I suddenly saw myself through her eyes, and felt ashamed of such a weedy diet. "Out, vile jelly," I said therefore, and tipped it in the bin. Last week Jennifer waved a big spoon at the camera and told us to stop thinking of yoghurt as a substitute for cream: "Yoghurt is very good for your breakfast, or if you're a vegetarian or something. But for cream, there is... Nothing. Better. Than Cream."

Some of the stooping is a bit too silly, but the cooking is wonderful and I like the way they "slosh it in" and "muck it about a bit" — which Delia Smith has never been known to do. And meanwhile there's all that press-button quoting to enjoy. "Gone, gone, and never called me mother" hasn't come up yet, so watch out.

How boring when all the telly is good — but that's BBC2 for you. Last night's *Decisive Weapons* (BBC2) was another fascinating programme in an excellent series, this week examining the longbow, and squaring up to the heroic Henry V myth of "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers." Agincourt was a great turning point in the history of war, when for the first time "knights were shot at by peasants". Sean Bean narrated again, and Robert Hardy made a guest appearance, because he's written a book about longbows (how odd). Whizz, whizz, boing, thud went the arrows, at alarming

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

happy morn," replies her chum, cheerfully. If they are having trouble with a map, they are poor little lambs that have lost their way. When they stand on the deck of a fishing boat, they are obliged to say "Captain, art thou sleeping down below?" Jennifer wipes her fingers and declares that all the perfections of Arabia will not sweeten those little hands. "It looks rather like a Union Jack," says

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (95746)  
**7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS** (CeeFax) (20117)  
**9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA** (CeeFax) (5315388)  
**9.20am STYLE CHALLENGE** (51200123)  
**9.45am KILROY** (51203104)  
**10.30am CANT COOK, WONT COOK** (s) (95562)  
**11.00am NEWS** (CeeFax) and weather (5614123)  
**11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW** (s) (7887901)  
**11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** (1893611)  
**12.00am NEWS** (CeeFax) and weather (7253814)  
**12.05pm SNOWY RIVER — THE MCGREGOR SAGA** (3063814)  
**12.50pm FANCY TAT** (5715543)  
**1.00pm NEWS** (CeeFax) and weather (29104)  
**1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS** (5716672)  
**1.40pm NEIGHBOURS** (CeeFax) (s) (44123949)  
**2.00pm CALL MY BLUFF** (s) (5307)  
**2.30pm THE TERRACE** (s) (369)  
**3.00pm INCOGNITO Quiz** (s) (4814)  
**3.30pm LITTLE BEAR** (s) (7150340) **3.55pm THE CHIMPUNKS** (s) (s) (2707320) **4.20pm JULIA KEXLY AND HARRIET HYDE** (CeeFax) (s) (8520475) **4.35pm SMART** (CeeFax) (s) (4733320) **5.00pm NEWSROUND** (CeeFax) (2100123) **5.10pm BYKER GROVE** (CeeFax) (206727)  
**5.35pm NEIGHBOURS** (s) (CeeFax) (s) (357843)  
**6.00pm NEWS** (CeeFax) and weather (758)  
**6.30pm REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES** (678)  
**7.00pm WATCHDOG** presented by Anne Robinson (CeeFax) (s) (8123)  
**7.30pm EASTENDERS** Chely manages to escape Kathy but isn't so easily fooled. David leaves nothing to chance. (CeeFax) (s) (562)  
**8.00pm ANIMAL HOSPITAL** Another visit to the RSPCA's Harrowood Memorial Hospital (CeeFax) (s) (5643)  
**8.30pm THE HELLO GIRLS** Comedy set in a telephone exchange in 1958. Sylvia must put her personal problems aside when a suicidal caller comes on the line. With Letitia Dean (CeeFax) (s) (4678)  
**9.00pm NEWS** (CeeFax), regional news and weather (5388)  
**9.30pm THE X FILES: OUBLIETTE** Mulder suspects that a young woman, who was kidnapped as a child, has made a psychic connection with a missing teenager. (CeeFax) (s) (514036)  
**10.15pm THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER** This week's guests are Mark Hurst and Dermot Reeve (CeeFax) (s) (578475)  
**10.45pm QUESTION TIME** From London. The panel includes MPs Michael Heseltine and Margaret Beckett, Chris Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods, and Sheila Lawlor, director of the Politics think-tank. (CeeFax) (s) (160778)  
**11.45pm OLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK** (s) (CeeFax) (s) (160778)  
**12.00am FILM: CHINA CRY** (1990) starring Julia Nickson. A fact-based drama about a woman's search for justice in 1950s China. Directed by James F. Collier (158811)  
**2.00pm WEATHER** (8003759)

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
**7.15pm SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS** (CeeFax and signing) (501272)  
**7.30pm ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS** (s) (444253) **7.55pm BLUE PETER** (s) (5507630) **8.20pm NODDY** (s) (1249036)  
**8.35pm THE RECORD** (s) (8964104)  
**9.00pm DAYTIME ON TWO: THE IT COLLECTION** (228901) **9.25pm THE ART OF WRITING AND PICTURES** (165017) **10.00pm PLAYDAYS** (70340) **10.30pm STORYTIME** (1797388) **10.45pm TEACHING TODAY** (147036) **11.15pm WELSH HISTORY — FAMOUS PEOPLE** (9451291) **11.35pm LANDMARKS: INVESTIGATING LOCAL HISTORY** (383611) **11.55pm BELIEF FILE: CHRISTIANITY IN BRITAIN** (151017) **12.15pm HALLO AUS BERLIN** (7104017)  
**12.30pm WORKING LUNCH** (12727) **1.00pm LIFESCHOOL** (5438794) **1.25pm ABOUT MUSIC** (17160524) **1.45pm NUMBERTIME** (57176104)  
**2.00pm NODDY** (s) (18384185)  
**2.10pm GOLF: TOYOTA WORLD MATCH PLAY** Steve Rider introduces live coverage from the West Course, Wentworth (s). Includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.55 (78575658)  
**5.20pm THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW** (CeeFax) (s) (9083038)  
**6.00pm STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE** Science fiction drama series. (CeeFax) (s) (794649)  
**6.45pm QUANTUM LEAP** Off-beat adventures of a time-trapped scientist. Sam Beckett goes back to 1951 and finds himself as a chimpanzee in a space capsule. Starring Scott Bakula (s) (CeeFax) (882340)  
**7.30pm REGIONAL PROGRAMMES** (104)  
**8.00pm THE WORKS: THE MAN WHO WANTED TO FLY** (CeeFax) (s) (8185)  
**8.30pm TOP GEAR** A guide to the Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham (CeeFax) (s) (5920)

- CHOICE**  
**The Works: The Man Who Wanted To Fly** (BBC2, 8.00pm) (Wales 7.30pm; Scotland tomorrow 7.15pm; not Northern Ireland)  
 An exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London is the peg for this film about Paul Nash, an official war artist in both the World Wars. Perhaps the only grumble about a thoroughly competent exercise, which deals equally effectively with the artist and the private man and makes the necessary connections between them, is that half an hour is not enough. Nash deserves at least an *Omnibus*. But a lot is conveyed in a short space, with Nash's lesser-known Second World War aircraft paintings getting as much attention as his famous landscape paintings of the Western Front. The programme also reminds us of Nash's very different peacetime work. Helping to provide context and illumination are Jill Craigie, who made a documentary about Nash in 1942, and *The Times*'s Richard Cork.  
**Dosh** (Channel 4, 8.00pm)  
 Adam Faith's latest entertaining trawl through ways of making money and saving it features a couple who won £38,000 on the National Lottery through departing by mistake from their usual numbers formula. It is a tip we could all try but we might be on the ground following the advice of Antonia Swinney, who claims to have cut her weekly grocery bill from £100 to £60 by shopping around. Except that many of us haven't the time or patience to discover that one supermarket's margarine is selling for 1p a tub less than another's. The week's most intriguing story is of the former naval officer turned career salesman. He has used his redundancy money to buy a franchise and promises to set the South West humming. People of Devon and Cornwall, beware.  
**Thief Takers** (ITV, 9.00pm)  
 Not for the first time in the Flying Squad series, the regular cast is upstaged by a one-off character. The excellent Scottish actor Douglas Henshall plays the getaway driver for a gang of armed robbers and we learn more about him in ten minutes than we seem destined ever to know about Reece Dinsdale's DI Charlie Scott and his team. Given his opportunity by a script which portrays his character as a troubled homosexual, emotionally dependent on a father who is dying of cancer, Henshall does not seem it. But rounded portraits are the exception in a series which relies for its impact on action rather than words. And action we get, as Henshall is enlisted as a police informer but seized by last-minute panic as the gang prepares to raid a building society with a forklift truck.  
**The System — Incapacity** (BBC2, 9.30pm)  
 Having stayed in Whitehall and Westminster last week, the series on the social security system moves for its final episode back into the field. The film is about the introduction of incapacity benefits, an initiative of the Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley. He is worried that despite a general improvement in the nation's health, payments for sickness and invalidity have more than doubled in a few years. The aim of the new benefit is to reduce expenditures, but as the film follows the first year of operation in Glasgow, the difficulties soon appear. In the process of sorting out genuine claimants from fraudsters, the doctors who are obliged to carry out medical tests are often caught reluctantly in the middle. The moral of an often revealing series is that with social security there are no easy solutions. Peter Waymark.

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- HTV**  
**8.00pm GMTV** (7314949)  
**9.25pm SUPERMARKET SWEEP** (2285814)  
**9.55pm REGIONAL NEWS** (Teletext) (6072098)  
**10.00pm THE TIME, THE PLACE** (25974)  
**10.30pm THIS MORNING** (27382562)  
**12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS** (7259098)  
**12.30pm NEWS** (Teletext)  
**12.55pm SHORTLAND STREET** (s) (3809659)  
**1.25pm CORMORANT STREET** (s) (Teletext) (6944035) **2.00pm HOME AND AWAY** (Teletext) (s) (2750017) **2.30pm QUININE** (Teletext) (s) (2758924) **2.50pm VANESSA** (Teletext) (s) (9605388)  
**3.30pm NEWS** (5204388)  
**3.50pm THE RIDDERS** (4455746) **3.40pm WIZADORA** (8875475) **3.50pm OLD BEAR STORIES** (4905622) **4.05pm SCOOBY DOO** (4410524) **4.15pm WOOF!** (210949)  
**4.45pm IT'S A MYSTERY** (Teletext) (1880529)  
**5.10pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (s) (8000104)  
**5.40pm NEWS** (Teletext) (530949)  
**6.00pm HOME AND AWAY** (s) (Teletext) (s) (81572)  
**6.25pm HTV NEWS** (Teletext) (576830)  
**7.00pm EMERDALE** A new Dingle turns up at the home of Jack and his hard to please Frank's plans and Zoe is upset by a surprise departure. (Teletext) (s) (4291)  
**7.30pm THE BIG STORY** Fat Cats Using concealed cameras, the programme exposes how some Euro MPs are getting massive increases on their salaries through a lucrative system of excessive subsistence and travel allowances (630)

- HTV WALES**  
**As HTV WEST except:**  
**6.25pm-7.00pm WALES TONIGHT** (576630)  
**7.30-8.00pm WALES THIS WEEK** (630)  
**10.40pm THE FERRET** (405982) **11.10pm THE BIG STORY** (454572) **12.10pm SHORT STORY CINEMA**  
**WESTCOUNTRY**  
**As HTV West except:**  
**12.25pm-12.30pm ILLUMINATIONS** (7267017)  
**12.55pm EMERDALE** (3606559)  
**1.25-1.55pm QUININE** (7698389)  
**1.55pm HOME AND AWAY** (14542611)  
**2.30pm VANESSA** (27503104)  
**2.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (1223002)  
**5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY** (6000104)  
**6.00-7.00pm WESTCOUNTRY NEWS** (625123)  
**10.45pm A DAY IN THE LIFE** (562814)  
**11.15pm SPECIAL REPORT** (698727)  
**11.45pm PRISONER CELL BLOCK H** (51272)  
**CENTRAL**  
**As HTV West except:**  
**12.55pm HOME AND AWAY** (3006559)  
**1.25pm QUININE** (7698389)  
**1.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (14197524)  
**2.30pm VANESSA** (27504833)  
**5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET** (8000104)  
**10.40pm MOTOR SHOW** (177814)  
**11.40pm LONDON BRIDGE** (864272)  
**12.10pm REVELATIONS** (578050)  
**12.45pm PLANET ROCK PROFILES** (94586)  
**1.15pm FUNNY BUSINESS** (5607234)  
**1.40pm NOT FADE AWAY** (8003760)  
**2.40pm FLUX** (5528708)  
**3.30pm THE CRIME HOUR** (6448865)  
**4.35pm JOYFINDER** (3807906)  
**5.30pm ASIAN EYE** (5229586)  
**MERIDIAN**  
**As HTV West except:**  
**12.55pm QUININE** (3006559)  
**1.25pm HOME AND AWAY** (7698389)  
**1.55pm SHORTLAND STREET** (14197524)  
**2.30pm VANESSA** (27504833)  
**5.10-5.40pm HOUSEPARTY** (8003388)  
**6.00pm HOME AND AWAY** (8000104)  
**6.30pm MERIDIAN TONIGHT** (494)  
**6.50-7.00pm TRUE... BUT STRANGE** (746)  
**10.30pm MERIDIAN NEWS** (625123)  
**10.45pm THE TERROR ON TRACK NINE** (2533920)  
**5.00pm FREESCREEN** (80876)  
**SAC**  
**Starts: 6.35pm PRO STARS** (8825307) **7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST** (19727) **8.00pm HERE'S ONE!** (56164) **8.30pm EMBELLER** (590369) **9.30pm YSGOLION** (244658) **10.00pm WILD WEST COUNTRY** (79524) **10.30pm BACKDATE** (30123) **1.00pm SLOT METHERIN** (12814) **1.30pm THE MAKING OF AN ENGLISHMAN** (3842340) **2.25pm RACING** (5024140) **4.30pm BIRDS OF THE BURNING SOUL** (543) **5.00pm PUMP** (8369) **5.30pm COUNTRY Y CWM** (927675) **7.25pm RUMOR MYSTERY** (854340) **8.00pm GORAU GWILAD** (8253) **8.30pm NEWYDDION** (7388) **9.00pm I DOT** (6389) **10.00pm FILM: DON'T LET MOM THE BAYWATCHER'S DEAD** (828415) **11.55pm DISPATCHES** (884164) **12.55pm CARLO SCARPA** (7242673)

- CHANNEL 4**  
**6.35pm PRO STARS** (s) (8825307)  
**7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST** (19727)  
**8.00pm HERE'S ONE! MADE EARLIER** (56164)  
**9.30pm SCHOOLS: Middle English** 9.45 *The Maths Programme* 10.05 *Scientific Eye* 10.25 *Geographical Eye* 10.45 *Le Petit Monde* 11.00 *The English Programme* 11.20 *Flora and Fauna* 11.40 *The Spanish Programme* (244659)  
**12.00pm AUSTRALIA WILD** (s) (79524)  
**12.30pm BACKDATE** (30123)  
**1.00pm SESAME STREET** (8741307)  
**1.55pm THE LIVING SEA: The Signals** (Teletext) (s) (14540253)  
**2.25pm RACING** From Newmarket and Redcar. A seven-race card (s) (76294140)  
**4.30pm COUNTDOWN** (Teletext) (s) (543)  
**5.00pm RICKI LAKE** (Teletext) (s) (2502307)  
**5.45pm SYRUP** Winner of the Short Film Jury Prize at Cannes about a bald, down-trodden man who gets some hair and fights back (s) (Teletext) (s) (805765)  
**6.00pm ERRIE INDIANA** (s) (Teletext) (656)  
**6.30pm HOLLYWOODS** (s) (Teletext) (656)  
**7.00pm CHANNEL 4 NEWS** (Teletext) (885659)  
**7.50pm THE SLOT** (336727)



Adam Faith talks money (8.00pm)

**8.00pm DASH** Adam Faith introduces a three-year-old model who makes more money than her mother. Plus the first of a two-part feature on a naval officer, Ian Surry, who swaps his life at sea for that of a carpet salesman (Teletext) (s) (8253)  
**8.30pm DESIRE** Fashion series presented by Sophie Anderson. Featuring an exclusive look at Gianfranco Ferré's new collection (25) (Teletext) (s) (7388)  
**9.00pm DISPATCHES** Revealing how MI6 has had intimate knowledge of Argentina's plans to storm in the week of the Falklands War — but has done nothing to prevent it (Teletext) (s) (369)  
**10.00pm FILM: Stolen Babies** (1992) with Lee Thompson. Drama based on a true story of a woman's fight against bureaucracy in the world of abused children and her right to change the lives of her babies. Directed by Eric Labovitz (56469)  
**11.45pm FOUR MATRONS: Confidential** Passions (s) (36974)  
**12.00pm KIDS IN THE HALL** Canadian comedy (s) (Teletext) (s) (7529234)  
**12.50pm FOUR MATRONS: Short films** (513692)  
**1.30pm FILM: The Great Waltz** (b/w, 1938) Film Biography of the Viennese composer Johann Strauss. Directed by Julien Duvivier (424811)  
**3.35pm FILM: Broadway Melody of 1936** (b/w, 1935) with Eleanor Powell. Classic musical (407296) Ends at 5.15

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
 The numbers next to the video programme listings are Video PlusCodes — numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ "handset". This is the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (TM), PlusCode (TM) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

**9.00pm NEVERWHERE** In the conclusion of the urban fantasy *Angel* has the key in his possession and there is only one person who can stand between him and his ambition. With Gary Bakewell, Laura Fraser, Hywel Bennett and Oliver Russell (CeeFax) (s) (6630)  
**9.30pm THE SYSTEM** Incapacity (CeeFax) (s) (72098)  
**10.30pm NEWSNIGHT** with Jeremy Paxman (CeeFax) (802185)  
**11.15pm GOLF: TOYOTA WORLD MATCHPLAY** Steve Rider introduces highlights of the opening round from the West Course, Wentworth (s) (429949)  
**12.05pm GRACE UNDER FIRE** American comedy series (s) (7522321)  
**12.30-6.00pm THE LEARNING ZONE**

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**12.30-6.00pm THE LEARNING ZONE**

**9.00pm NEVERWHERE** In the conclusion of the urban fantasy *Angel* has the key in his possession and there is only one person who can stand between him and his ambition. With Gary Bakewell, Laura Fraser, Hywel Bennett and Oliver Russell (CeeFax) (s) (6630)  
**9.30pm THE SYSTEM** Incapacity (CeeFax) (s) (72098)  
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**12.30-6.00pm THE LEARNING ZONE**

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**  
**SKY 1**  
**7.00pm** Under (8233) **8.00pm** Press Your Luck (565787) **8.30pm** Jeopardy! (598758) **9.00pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **9.30pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **10.00pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **10.30pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **11.00pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **11.30pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787) **12.00pm** The Oprah Winfrey Show (565787)  
**SKY 2**  
**7.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **8.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **8.30pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **9.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **9.30pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **10.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **10.30pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **11.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **11.30pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787) **12.00pm** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (565787)  
**SKY NEWS**  
 Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week  
**SKY MOVIES**  
**4.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **5.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **6.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **6.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **7.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **7.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **8.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **8.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **9.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **9.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **10.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **10.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **11.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **11.30pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497) **12.00pm** The Magnificent Showman (1989) (8040497)



## GOLF 48

World's best  
prepare for  
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## SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17 1996

## SHOOTING STARS 50

Adam back on  
track after  
years of trials



Fowler ready for European recall

## Liverpool take no risks with Swiss on a roll

FROM PETER BALL IN SION

THERE was a time when a visit to Switzerland in European competition was regarded as a by-product of the game, if not a holiday. Liverpool, however, based high in the Alps in preparation for the European Cup Winners' Cup, second-round, first-leg match against FC Sion tonight, have been taking nothing for granted.

Sitting up a mountain in Crans-Montana, looking over the Rhone Valley to the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc, football hardly seems a likely local pursuit, but, in October, with rain rather than snow falling heavily down in the valley in Sion, football is the sport of the moment and the local team is to be taken seriously.

Indeed, Sion are confident and have enlisted the services of their man on Merseyside - Marc Hotiger, the Everton full-back, their former player, who has provided his former club with a breakdown on Liverpool.

"Marc has been very helpful," Daniel Matton, the Sion general manager, said. "We know all about them and their reputation, but we won't be overawed."

With Switzerland holding England at Wembley to a 1-1 draw during the European championship in the summer and Grasshoppers, the Zurich club, inflicting an embarrassing recent defeat on Rangers in the European Cup Champions' League, Swiss football

cannot be taken lightly and Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and John Barnes, his captain, were at pains yesterday to stress the seriousness of the side's task.

"We have seen them at first hand and this is a dangerous team," Evans said. "We have got to be on our guard."

Sion have drawn with Grasshoppers and beaten Neuchâtel Xamax, another leading side, in recent weeks and Grasshoppers' success in Europe illustrates their quality. "We don't know much about Sion, but what we heard about their performances against Grasshoppers and Neuchâtel suggests we have got to be careful," Barnes said.

After a stuttering start, Liverpool have improved as the season has progressed, even allowing for the defeat by Manchester United on Saturday. Inside the camp, at least, there was satisfaction in their performance at the weekend, if not in their finishing.

That would be improved if Robbie Fowler returns from his ankle injury. Provided that he does not feel any reaction from training yesterday, he is expected to be fit and the decision whether to recall him represents Evans' main problem. If he does so, it will presumably be at the expense of Stan Collymore.

After losing at Old Trafford, where Collymore had a subdued match, that may seem a straightforward decision, but, if Liverpool are to play a typical game of containment and counter-attack, the power of Collymore's running will not be discarded lightly.

Liverpool are certainly aware of the importance of an away goal. "As we found out when we played Brondby last year, 0-0 is not always a good result away from home," Barnes said. "The idea is to go out there and get an away goal. Obviously, we don't want to go out and score and then lose 3-1, but an away goal is always vital in Europe."

Liverpool are unlikely to be exposed in the same way that Newcastle United were at Ferencvaros in Hungary on Tuesday. There may be different views about their system with three central defenders, but, provided that Dominic Matteo is fit, they are now looking better balanced than last year and, as well as Matteo, Phil Babb is also looking the part.

"I think it's the most consistent I've played for Liverpool," Babb said. "I've played well in the past, but I have been more steady this season and I am smiling all the time."

Beardsley owns up, page 47  
Grim for Aberdeen, page 47

## Players prepare to take strike action

A STRIKE by players in the three divisions of the National League appears to be imminent (see Russell Kempson's report). The result of a ballot organised by the Professional Footballers' Association is due to be announced in two days' time and it is believed that the players have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike.

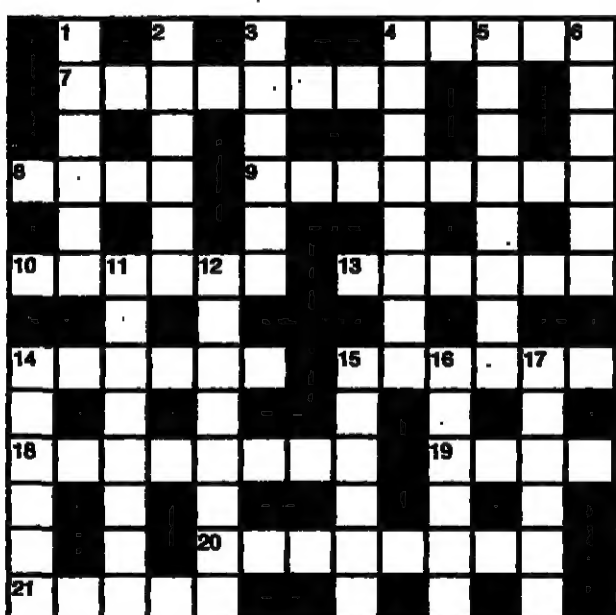
If they have, it would affect, at least initially, all televised matches in the Nationwide League. Grimsby Town's home match with Sheffield

United on Sunday, November 3, could see the start of the industrial action, with players refusing to play unless cameras are withdrawn.

Since the Football League decided that the PFA should receive only a "discretionary" payment from television revenue, instead of its traditional 10 per cent, the two organisations have been at loggerheads. Lengthy negotiations have proved fruitless and, having taken legal advice, the League claims that a strike would be unlawful.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 915 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



## ACROSS

- 4 Up to now (2,3)
- 7 Land of dny people (Swift) (5)
- 8 Blow on the wind (4)
- 9 Walter —, 20C esp. children's poet (2,2,4)
- 10 Language of the OT (6)
- 13 Portray (6)
- 14 Dark, gloomy (6)
- 15 Constrictor snake (6)
- 18 Reached (8)
- 19 Western military alliance (1,1,1,1,1)
- 20 Possessive case (8)
- 21 Eur. city: husband chosen for Juliet (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Liquid shortfall in egg cask (6)
- 2 Roofer: severe critic (6)
- 3 Opening for light (6)
- 4 Grand plan (8)
- 5 Bizarrely unusual (8)
- 6 Not long ago (6)
- 11 Pour tea (2,6)
- 12 Income from work (8)
- 14 Big, good (meal) (4,2)
- 15 Language mixture of egg traders (6)
- 16 Real, table, game (6)
- 17 The beginning (6)

## PRIZES:

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THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

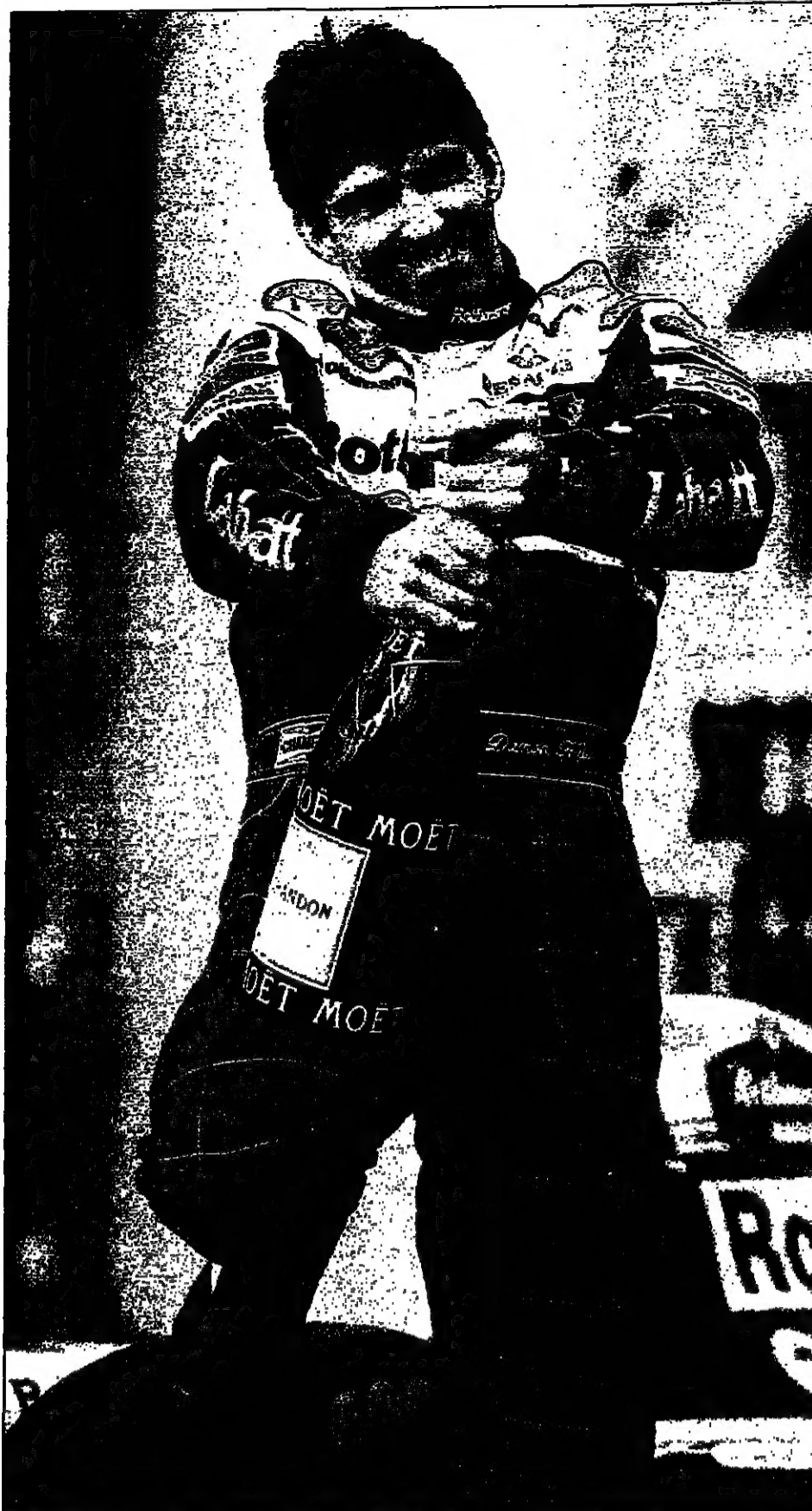
Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6836, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

## SOLUTION TO NO 914

ACROSS: 1 Rainbow 5 Dais 9 Diver 10 Realise 11 Right-hand man 12 Pre-war 13 Infamy 16 Overshadowed 19 Animate 20 Debut 21 Cite 22 Conclude

DOWN: 1 Ride 2 Invoice 3 Birthday suit 4 Worthy 6 Axion 7 Sternly 8 Cannon fodder 12 Proxic 14 Alembic 15 Baltic 17 Evict 18 Ogle



Hill was too exhausted to perform the ritual champagne celebrations yesterday

## Rusedski's victory sets up Henman clash

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski are poised for their first confrontation this year at the Czech indoor tournament in Ostrava today. Great Britain's leading tennis players will meet in the second round after Rusedski defeated George Bastl, a qualifier from Switzerland, 6-4, 7-6 yesterday.

Henman, the British No 1, beat Nicklas Kulti, of Sweden, on Monday, and will face Rusedski for the first time since he beat him 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the British national championships in Telford last November. At that time, Rusedski was the British No 1 and was expected to win. Since then, the tables have turned and Henman, ranked 26th in the world and seeded No 7 for the Czech event, will start as favourite.

However, Rusedski, whose world ranking slumped from an all-time high of 33 in January to 84 two weeks ago, has been in outstanding form during the past fortnight.

He began his recovery by



Rusedski: beat qualifier

reaching the semi-final of the Heineken Classic in Singapore, a performance which ensured that his world ranking improved nine places to 75.

He then won his first ATP Tour event since changing his allegiance from Canada to Britain last year when he beat Martin Damm, of the Czech Republic, in the final of the Peking Open at the weekend, a victory which enabled him to climb a further 22 runs up the ranking ladder to 53.

Sam Smith yesterday celebrated her first win on home soil since she became the British No 1 a fortnight ago. Smith defeated Sofia Pzerez, of Portugal, 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the Texaco Ladies Challenge at Cardiff and will now face Eva Martancova, of the Czech Republic.

Clare Wood, deposed by Smith as British No 1, will

meet the top seed, Elena Wagner, of Germany. Wagner beat Claire Taylor, of Oxfordshire, 6-2, 6-3. Smith and Wood will clash in the quarter-finals if they win their second-round matches today.

Pete Sampras made a successful start to his challenge for the Marlboro Hong Kong Championships yesterday, beating Grant Connell, of Canada, 6-4, 6-2 in silver group.



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## Dancing into the danger zone

Injuries soar as competition in the ballroom heats up, Ruth Gledhill reveals

One of the biggest international ballroom dancing events enters its third and final day today with a record number of injuries reported by dancers as young as 13 years old. One competitor, an English teenager and one of the country's top dancers, was sent to hospital as an emergency with a foot injury inflicted during a tango. Others were winded, knocked and kicked by rival dancers as they fought for first places across Latin and modern dances, including waltz, tango, samba, cha-cha-cha and rumba.

The casualty rate at the 44th Elsinore International, at the Brentwood Leisure Centre, this week, is being cited as further evidence that ballroom dancing has developed into a sport comparable with rugby, football and athletics for the demands that it makes in terms of stamina, fitness and competitiveness. In another recent competition, the Open British, at Blackpool, first-aiders treated 138 injured dancers over five days, a record for that event. Elsewhere, lacerations to the legs have been caused by the flashing high heels of the

women as they spin, turn or perform leg-kicks.

Dance-inflicted ailments in Blackpool included fractured arms and ribs, and a collar bone dislocated during the tango. Graham Miles, the first-aid consultant for dancers, said: "Because they are all trying to make the finals, they are putting everything into it and being injured as a result. The days of courtesy and floorcraft on the dancefloor have gone."

With 550 couples dancing in continuous heats across three days, with the finals today at the Albert Hall, casualties are inevitable and yesterday injuries requiring Miles's attention were averaging two an hour. Miles said: "The most serious injury was when one of our English couples was dancing the foxtrot. Another girl stood on her foot and did a heel turn, right on her toe. It came right up, and we sent her straight to hospital. We haven't heard yet whether she's well enough to dance at the Albert Hall today."

Raju Arulanandham, the Canadian over-35s senior champion, who dances with his wife, Lorraine, saw his ankle swell up like a balloon after a rival kicked him accidentally during the cha-cha. "I carried on dancing, but I could feel the foot swelling, the shoe getting tighter," he said. Expert massage and a bag of ice left him fit to continue, however.

Some dancers also suffer stress-induced headaches and faintness because of nerves brought on by all-day competitions and the pressure to succeed.

Rugby tops the sports injuries table, with football second and hockey third. About 6.4 million people in England need treatment for sports injuries each year, with 1.4 million taking an average of six days off work to recover.

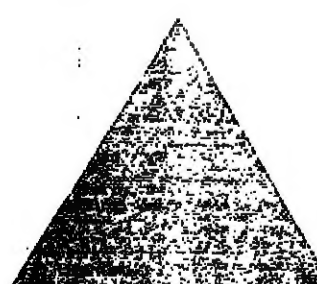
Like most athletes, dancers will, as a rule, continue dancing through an injury, however, the adrenaline of a

competition countering even severe pain. Miles, who dances with his wife, Liz, an aromatherapist, is employed as a first-aid specialist at most top dance championships.

He began treating dancers two years ago when dancing in the senior rankings in a competition organised by Bill Phillips, the promoter, also at Brentwood. "We were dancing, and my wife saw a man go down," he said. "We carried on dancing, but nobody was helping him, so we stopped and rushed over."

The competitor had had a heart attack. Miles used his specialist skills and spent 20 minutes resuscitating him, eventually saving his life. Phillips has since made sure that Miles is on hand at most top events, and he is also used by Bobby Short, the promoter of the International, and others. "The dancers know me, so they might come to me early with a problem that they wouldn't take to a stranger," he said. This means that potential problems can sometimes be detected early.

Ballroom dancing is recognised provisionally as an Olympic sport. Full recognition is expected in June.



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